



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 30, 2012

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

Monday

Ladies Class 10 am

Email:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THE DIVIDING LINE

My brother and I shared a room growing up. This arrangement was often met with some resistance. On one occasion we decided to divide the room in half, he taking one side and I taking the other. I chose the side with the most toys, and he decided on the position nearest the door. Neither one of us were to cross the dividing line. The arrangement went well until suppertime. My brother laughed as he exited the room. I stood there for a moment contemplating the situation. I was hungry; thus, I crossed that line of demarcation so as to enjoy the blessings of a home cooked meal. Needless to say, we never divided the room again.

God draws lines, and He often uses water as a sort of dividing line between sin-bondage and salvation-freedom. Noah's flood was a dividing line separating the old world from the new (**Genesis 6:1**). The Jordan River stood as a line of demarcation between Naaman's leprosy and a Divine cure (**II Kings 5:1**). The Pool of Siloam stood between the blind man and the reception of his sight (**John 9:1-6**). The Red Sea served as a dividing line between Israel's slavery and her salvation (**Exodus 14:1**). Any failure on the part of each of the above listed people to cross that line of demarcation would have demonstrated a lack of faith and would have resulted in no salvation. So it is with water baptism. Just as the employment of water was used as a test of faith and a means of salvation in the before-mentioned passages, so too is its purpose today. Baptism stands between the sinner and his freedom. If the sinner is not baptized for the remission of his sins he can never be saved (**Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38**).

Do you want to be saved and enjoy the blessings found only in Christ? Then cross that dividing line and free yourself from the bondage of sin.

“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

Terry R. Townsend

LIFE IN THE LIGHT

There is no denying that the Church is facing some real problems today. Biblical authority is being undermined. Unscriptural practices are being introduced. False doctrine is being taught. Her purity is being compromised for the sake of personal preference. Many have spoken up and spoken out. There are fine Christian men and women who have taken a stand. Some have written articles or books. Some have preached it with vigor. Others have used the television, the radio and the newspaper to voice their concern. We are thankful for these efforts. We are grateful for those Christians who stand for God and His truth. And may they always do so with boldness and conviction. However, there are some who have become so consumed with the negative that they can't see the positive. They're so busy pointing out all that's wrong with the Church that they can't find what's right. Their concern has become an obsession and as a result, they have lost sight of the goal. The church's real purpose has gotten lost because they have become blinded by their own negativity. Whether big things or small things, the Lord's Church is no stranger to problems. If asked, "What's wrong with the Lord's Church," most of us could probably come up with a pretty comprehensive list. We know what's wrong. We know the bad news. It's time for the good news. What's right with the Lord's Church?

What's right with the Lord's Church is its **MASTER**. The Church is Christ's. It belongs to Him. He is the head. He purchased it with His own blood. What's right with the Lord's Church is its **MANDATE**. The Church's purpose is to save souls. It is the agency by which the story of salvation is to be told. What's right with the Lord's Church is its **MANUAL**. All of God's word on any and every subject is pure and perfect because all of it is God-breathed (**II Timothy 3:16-17**); therefore, we can trust our lives to its message. We can live by its teachings. It is our handbook. What's right with the Lord's Church is its **MEMBERS**. You may be thinking to yourself, "I know a lot of members of the Lord's Church who aren't right." The Lord's Church is full of imperfect people. A Church can be right without being perfect as long as the members understand who they are and who they belong to. We are living stones that make up the house of God (**I Peter 2:4-5**). We are a family; therefore, we should have a deep love for one another.

The Lord's design for the church is pure and perfect; it's the people that mess it up. When we ignore the head, when we dismiss the mandate, when we pervert the manual, or when we divide the body we cause the Church to be less than what she was intended to be. We destroy her purity and make her easy prey for Satan. We must protect the Lord's precious commodity. It doesn't belong to us. We are her stewards. It is up to us to see that she exists as He designed her.

Chris McCurley