



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

April 21, 2019

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

**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Todd Houston

**Secretary:**

Susan Chandler

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

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

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7:00 pm

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## HAVE A PLAN

Sometimes it is fun to just “pick up and go.” It can be exciting to “play things by ear” and to “fly by the seat of our pants” when it comes to things like down-time and recreation. But overall you and I recognize the value and necessity of having a plan when it comes to the most important things in life.

Good students are not made by accident. Great jobs are not found and kept by accident. Powerful and lasting companies are not built by accident. Successful athletes are not made and discovered by accident. Things like this happen because someone had a plan and stuck to it.

Jesus taught this basic concept in **Luke 14:25-33**. You do not begin building a tower without a plan. You do not go into battle without a plan.

Jack Ray shared some information with me that bears repeating as it relates to this discussion. North Dakota is known for its devastatingly low temperatures. In fact, some of the locals have known to say, “-41 degrees keeps the riff-raff out!” I would think so – that is too cold for me! Under conditions such as this, Air Force mechanics working on airplanes outdoors are limited as to the amount of time that they can be exposed to the elements. Typically, they have anywhere from 5 to 8 minutes at a time to work on the aircraft before they must come back in. That isn’t much time! They have to have a plan in mind before they leave the warm building and head out to the machinery, otherwise they would never get anything accomplished.

When time is short, we must have a plan of attack. We cannot approach the task at hand haphazardly. Life is short, it appears for just a little while and then it vanishes (**James 4:14**). We don’t have the time to wander around aimlessly.

Do you have a plan for your personal spiritual growth? Do you have a plan for the spiritual growth and development of your family? At the very least, your plan should include 1) regular prayer – express your heart and feelings, make requests, and thank God for His greatness, 2) study – allow God to inform you and shape you through His Holy Word, 3) spend time with other Christians – we need to encourage and help each other, 4) worship – our expression of our submission along with the acknowledgement of His majesty will deepen our spiritual well and also allow us to reach greater heights. What items will you add to your plan for spiritual growth?

**Bart Warren**

# CHURCH SHOPPING

If you have ever shopped for a vehicle, you know the problem of not knowing exactly what you want or at what price you want it. What about looking for a church home? Is there any more important “shopping” to be done? When you are looking to place membership with a congregation of the Lord’s people, you should look for certain things within that particular congregation – things which will benefit you as you work with them, laboring for the Lord.

Here are some things to consider when looking for a church home:

**Look for a congregation with a youth group of “Timothy’s”** **II Timothy 1:5:** *“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice: and I am persuaded that in thee also.”* You will want a youth group who has been, and continues to be, trained and taught by faithful parents and grandparents. A youth group that displays knowledge of the Scriptures will be a vote of confidence toward the elders and preacher as well (**Acts 16:1-2**).

**Seek a congregation filled with “Daniels”** You will want a praying family! Do not settle for anything less! **James 5:16:** *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* And again, **Colossians 4:2:** *“Continued in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”*

**You should desire a preacher like Paul.** A preacher who is afraid to rebuke and reprove is not a preacher you want exhorting you to obey. You should want a preacher who is not afraid to speak up when something is wrong, who will show the right path to follow, and will be there to help you finish the course! **II Timothy 4:2:** *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.”*

**Look also for a congregation with givers like Enoch.** You definitely want those who give by faith and not those who give by sight! You want men and women alike who will have faith in an eldership to guide them in the direction – no matter the cost – which will benefit the Kingdom of God (**Genesis 5:22-24, Hebrews 11:5**). **Hebrews 11:1:** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

**Seek out a congregation with elderly ones like Caleb (Joshua 14:10-14).** Make an effort to find those who have reached ages where most would have given up – but have not!

**Find a congregation with deacons like Gideon.** When they are few in number because of lack of attendance to programs, events, and activities, the deacons will continue to press on with little or no earthly support. Gideon did (**Judges 7**)!

**Finally, look for elders like David.** You definitely want elders who are men after God’s own heart, who are not above falling yet are not “too good” to ask for help to get up again (**II Samuel 11; Psalm 51**)!

Look around and find the right congregation for the Lord and for you. I hope and pray we are the one you have been seeking. If we are not, help to develop us, and we will assist you along the way in any way we can!

**Kirk Talley**