



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 23, 2017

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
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 7:30 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

DO YOU HEAR GOD?

After more than 100 years brother Charles Hodge remains one of the most famous preachers in our brotherhood. He is reported to have baptized more than any other man in the late 19th and 20th centuries. His quips, answers and comments are still quoted in many sermons today. Near the end of his life, Brother Hodge wrote:

“As I come to the end of my ministry and life, I have never been more committed to Scripture! What an awesome privilege simply to possess a Bible! Our hands must tremble in reverence as we hold our Bibles (**Isaiah 66:5**). Is the Bible the Word of God? This question must be answered. We must teach our children this. What good is a “talking God” without listening ears?” The need of the world is to listen to God. The Old Testament is full of “*But they would not listen.*” “*Thus saith the Lord.*” “*It is written.*” Start with the Bible; stick with the Bible; stay with the Bible! ... “*Oh earth, earth, Hear the Word of our Lord!*” (**Jeremiah 22:29**). **Gospel Advocate, August 2007.**

Greatly are these words of brother Hodge needed in the brotherhood and in the world today! Far too many are like the Israelites after the death of the last judge following Israel’s deliverance from Egypt: “*In those days there was no king in Israel, everyone did what was right in his own eyes*” (**Judges 21:25**). Doesn’t that sound like the world today?

Why do we expect God to hear and answer our prayers, if we refuse to listen to Him? Jesus said, “*the sheep follow Him (Good Shepherd), for they know His voice*” (**John 10:4**).

John K. Wills

WHY COME BACK?

Is it mandatory? Is it a sin not to? These are questions every Christian needs to be asking and answering from God's Word. (**Hebrews 10:24-26** is a good text to study for the right answer). However, this article takes a look at the benefits of coming back.

The first benefit that is available on Sunday nights is the "profiting." Paul told Timothy, "*Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all*" (**I Timothy 4:15**). Those who do not come back on Sunday nights miss out on a full one-fourth of the preacher's teaching/preaching. This preacher reserves some of his deeper studies for the Sunday night sermon.

A second benefit can be found in special worship opportunities. Not every month, but on a regular basis, we just sing. We learn some new ones, we enjoy old favorites, and we now help develop some new song leaders. According to the book of Hebrews, Jesus enjoyed singing: "*For both He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, I will declare thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee*" (**Hebrews 2:11-12**). There can be no better recommendation than that.

A third benefit is derived from special fellowship opportunities. Just being here and having fellowship with those of "*like precious faith*" (**II Peter 1:1**) in worship is special. We each have, as one man says, "a ministry of presence." However, there are regular special fellowship occasions that involve our children and youth after worship. Those young ones who came early also benefit from Pew Packers. There are also a lot of impromptu fellowships after worship, where a group will meet at a local restaurant for food and friendly conversation.

Fourth, there is the assurance that the Lord is pleased with this choice. We are fulfilling His instructions to "*consider one another to provoke unto love and good works*" (**Hebrews 10:24**).

The spiritual benefits are only found in coming back.

J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.