



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

April 2, 2023

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

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Faith Moves

J.W. McGarvey said, *“If our faith is to save us, our faith in Christ, it will be by causing us to act in harmony with that faith”*. McGarvey continued, *“If He is Christ, the Son of the living God, ruling over heaven and earth, and we believe that, and act in harmony with it, we immediately surrender our souls and bodies and all that we have and are, to His divine guidance and control”* (Sermons, p. 93).

Faith always moves.

Faith must move in the direction of Christ. We are *“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:2)*. The NASB says, *“fixing our eyes on Jesus.”* We keep our focus heavenward, where Christ is (**Col. 3:1-2**).

Faith must move under the power of Christ. *“Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Col. 3:17)*. We seek His favor in all we do.

Faith must move in accord with Christ. *“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (1 John 1:6-7)*. We seek to walk harmoniously with Him.

When faith moves in the direction, under the power, and in accord with Jesus Christ, it is called *“faithfulness.”* The faithful will be crowned with eternal life (**Rev. 2:10**).

Rick Kelley
via Massillon church of Christ
Massillon, OH

People Like Us

We believe the book of First Peter was written about 30 years after the time of Jesus. The people to whom Peter wrote were a lot like us. They were people who had to base their faith on what they were told by preachers, like the apostles, and what they could read in the scriptures, for them the Old Testament. The Christians to whom Peter wrote had never heard or seen Jesus directly according to **1 Peter 1:8-9**: *“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

These Christians had faith even though they never witnessed Jesus perform a miracle or heard Jesus teach. That faith led to them being filled with *“inexpressible and glorious joy.”* That joy was based on their belief in Jesus that Peter described, *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you”* (**1 Peter 1:3-4**). Faith in the promises given by God and the salvation offered to man through the sacrifice of His Son changed these people’s lives and would sustain them through the challenges they were about to face.

Peter warns that they were about to undergo trials in **verse 6**: *“...though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.”* However, because of the gospel that was shared with them and the faith that it produced they would be able to overcome if they were prepared. Peter told them how to prepare for the hard times and we need to learn these same lessons today. *“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy’”* (**1 Peter 1:13-16**). We are facing hard times but with our faith strong in the Lord and living the life He has called us to live we will also receive “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.”

Brad Tolbert
Monticello church of Christ
Monticello, AR