



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

April 8, 2018

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

## ‘NOT ONE MORE...’

June 28, 2014 marked the 100 year anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Their deaths led directly to World War I, which would begin exactly one month later on July 28.

The Archduke and his wife were shot as they rode in an open-air motorcade through the streets of Sarajevo, Bosnia. Of historical interest is the fact that an attempt on their lives had already been made earlier in the day. A man had thrown a bomb at their car – but missed!

*The Chicago Tribune* reported that following the explosion the duchess tried to dissuade her husband from continuing the parade and planned ceremonies. To this (in order to remove her fear), the governor of Bosnia said, **“It is all over now. We have not more than one murderer in Sarajevo.”** Upon hearing this, the motorcade continued. The rest, as they say, is history.

This reminds me of the way we often ignore certain warning signs and talk ourselves into making foolish decisions.

We have been with certain people and/or crowds and have put ourselves in the same positions with all the same temptations...but we say...there is not one more temptation here.

The father of lies loves it when we tell ourselves that there is **not one more...**

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today,’ that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:13).*

**Bart Warren**

# TO HAVE AND TO LOSE

There is “*a time to get, and a time to lose*” (**Ecclesiastes 3:6**). Suffering loss is a part of living. We lose money. We lose health. We lose friends. We lose loved ones. We lose our happiness. Life is a constant cycle of ups and downs, gains and losses. Circumstances beyond our control can take away what is dear to us in a moment. People can rob us of our possessions and our peace of mind. Even our own bad choices can deprive us of the kind of life we want. Few things in life stay the same for very long.

How do you take losing something you treasure? The Christians in the book of Hebrews had their property taken from them. Yet the writer says they “*took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance*” (**Hebrews 10:34**). They surely didn’t put a sign on their door saying, “Go in, steal what you want, and that will make us happy.” They were not happy because people took what they owned; they were joyful in spite of this fact. They realized more than ever that happiness does not come from things. More importantly, they remembered that they would eventually leave all their possessions behind and inherit far greater treasure in heaven.

Job lost his possessions and his ten children. That kind of loss would cause some people to lose their faith, but not Job. His attitude was “*The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord*” (**Job 1:21**). Job was mistaken about who was responsible for his affliction. It was Satan and not God who did these things to him. But at least at this point in the story he took his suffering well.

Alexander Campbell believes, as did Abraham Lincoln also suggested, that the Civil War was God’s punishment on America. Campbell said that no people have ever enjoyed peace and prosperity long without becoming ungrateful and prideful. As a result, he argued, “Our heavenly Father is constrained to lay His hand upon his person, his family, or his estate; and by a series of difficulties, embarrassments, afflictions – personal or social – awaken and arouse him, compel him, indeed, to think, to ponder his path, and thus to reform, change his course of life, and become sober-minded.” Campbell was humbly speaking from his own experience when he talked about losing what we have. When he wrote these words in 1861, he had buried his first wife Margaret and ten of his fourteen children.

It is a shame that we don’t appreciate what we have until we lose it. We don’t appreciate our health until we start having illness. We don’t appreciate our freedom until we’re on the verge of losing it. We don’t appreciate our friends and loved ones until they’re gone. But this doesn’t have to happen. You can decide to be thankful today. “*In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*” (**I Thessalonians 5:18**). Life can take away what we treasure.

Death will take away all our earthly attachments. Why should this bother us as long as we gain heaven?

**Kerry Duke**