



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

August 27, 2023

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

## This is Just the Elevator

The story is told of a farmer who called into a radio station during a contest, and being the fifth caller, he was given an all expense trip paid to New York City. The farmer was absolutely overwhelmed by his trip and the new experiences. A stretch limo picked him up and took him to the airport; his first flight; his first glimpse of New York City, etc.

As the bell hop carried this farmer's luggage into the five star hotel, they opened the door and entered a room. The bell hop noticed a look of disappointment on the farmer's face and asked, "*Sir, is something wrong? You don't look like you're satisfied.*" The farmer said, "*I shouldn't complain because I haven't paid for any of this, but I am a little disappointed that my room is so small and that I have to share it with two other people*" (there were two other people in the room also). The bell hop looked at the farmer with a puzzled look and said, "*Sir, your room is 60 floors up. This is just the elevator to take us there.*"

Well now, before we chuckle at this farmer, we may find that we are making the same mistake that he made. Sometimes people will question whether or not God really loves them. They wonder why pain, suffering, and sorrow are a part of their lives if God loves them.

The answer is simple. We, like the farmer, have confused our journey with our destination. Friends, God never promised Heaven on Earth, but he did promise Heaven after Earth to all who are faithful.

Next time you're tempted, due to less than ideal circumstances, to question whether God loves you, remember that this life is the journey and not the destination.

Steve Higginbotham  
Karns church of Christ  
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# When Christ is Your Life

God has made great promises to those who live for Christ. Consider what Paul wrote about living for Christ: “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you*” (**Philippians 1:21-24**). Notice from this text that Paul lived for Christ: “*For to me to live is Christ*” (v.21). Because Paul lived for Christ, he enjoyed wonderful blessings and promises. These same blessings and promises are given to those who live for Christ today. Consider the following blessings:

When Christ is your life, there is no reason to fear death (v.21). Paul affirmed that to die was “*gain*.” Generally, people fear and dread death. Death is referred to in Scripture as the “*king of terrors*” (**Job 18:14**). When Isaiah told Hezekiah, king of Judah, to set his house in order because he would soon die, Hezekiah did what most would do. He wept and prayed to God (**Isaiah 38:1-3**). However, Jesus came and makes it possible to face death with calm confidence and assurance (**Hebrews 2:14-15**). When faithful Christians walk through the “*valley of the shadow of death*,” we can pass through that valley in peace.

When Christ is your life, you can anticipate going to be with Christ (v.23). Notice from the text that Paul had a great desire to die (“*depart*”) because at death, he would go to be with Christ. Sometimes, one who is enduring great suffering and pain may desire death to escape the trial of affliction. However, Paul had a higher, purer motive for wanting to die. He desired to depart so that he could be with Jesus. All who live for Christ will be with Him in eternity (**II Corinthians 5:8**)!

When Christ is your life, you can anticipate going to a place that is far better than living in this world (v.23). The term translated “*far*” is a word that suggests there is something “*much*” better—infinately better—than anything the world has to offer. At death, those who have lived for Christ will be happy; free from temptation; free from sin, sorrow and trials. Heaven is far better!

In view of these great promises, there is little wonder that Paul wrote: “*Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice*” (**Philippians 4:4**). When Christ is your life, there is great reason to rejoice! Is Christ your life?

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