



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

Aug 6, 2023

P.O. Box 416  
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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:**

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## Regret for Our Past Decisions

In the book of Genesis, we read the story of Lot, the nephew of Abraham. God commanded Abraham to take his family and move away from his home country to a new land. Abraham and his family and all their flocks made the migration to a land that was over-flowing with physical blessings. But Lot made one really bad decision. He chose to move close to the wicked city of Sodom. In fact, he ended up moving into that corrupt town (**Genesis 13-14**).

God, in his wisdom, chose to destroy Sodom and the surrounding cities (**Genesis 13:1-13**). However, two angels warned Lot to flee. But Lot's sons-in-law refused to leave the area. Even his own wife turned back to the Sodom and died. And, while his daughters lived, their morality had been corrupted by living in that evil city and committed great sin against the Lord (**Genesis 19**).

Lot had much to regret in his life. However, God's grace is more powerful than any sin or regret. Thus, we read in **2 Peter 2:7-8** that God rescued Lot from both the destruction of his city and the city, itself. Instead of focusing on the wrong decisions of his past, God focused on Lot's heart.

Likewise, as repentant Christians, we need to put the past behind us and focus on our relationship and obedience to the Lord, today. He has forgiven our past sins and gives us a future to look forward to (**Philippians 3:13-14; Isaiah 43:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18**).

Larry Fitzgerald

Woodlawn church of Christ

Abilene, TX

# Why is Our Society So Sinful?

Why will a man throw away the wife of his youth and the children she bore him, all for a “*one night stand*?” Adults use profanity in public and in front of children. Society is plagued by constant news reports of murder, abuse, rape and theft. Even in a small community, the gossip stays hot on social media. In America, we behave badly.

One reason we behave badly is because we live for ourselves and we live for the moment. When God is taken out of life’s equation, so is any motivation to live for eternity. Paul alludes to this way of life when he says, “*If the dead do not rise, ‘Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!’*” (**1 Corinthians 15:32**). He goes on to describe those who live for the here and now as “*evil company*” (**33**). When a person denies the existence of God, a future resurrection and eternal life, they have only themselves and the moment for which to live. That perspective lends itself to gross immorality; and fellowshiping with that kind of people “*corrupts good habits*” (**33**).

Paul admonishes Christians to “*awake to righteousness and do not sin*” (vs. **34**). The inspired apostle indicated a direct correlation: deny the resurrection, live only for the present, equals sinful life, or, believe in the resurrection of Jesus, we will be resurrected one day, live a righteous life. Atheists would have the world to believe that as a general rule they are just as concerned about morality and doing good toward their fellow man as Christians. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The debauchery and crime of our society is directly linked to our secularization. If we believe there is no God; if we believe that we are the product of a series of accidents and no more important than animals and if we have no hope of an afterlife where we will be rewarded or punished accordingly, then we have nothing to live for but ourselves. And being surrounded by people who think and behave so ungodly can have a profoundly negative influence on otherwise good people.

Know this, there is a last day on the horizon. Jesus is coming. We will stand before Him. We will spend eternity in hell or heaven. Live for eternity.

“*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord*” (**1 Corinthians 15:58**).

Brent Smith  
Trenton church of Christ  
Trenton, TN