



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 16, 2015

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

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

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

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

LIFE ISN'T FAIR BUT IT ISN'T GOD'S FAULT!

The atheist would argue that the reason life isn't fair is because there is no God. The agnostic would say that life's "unfairness" is "evidence" of why he or she can't make his/her mind up about God. The apathetic, religious person would point to life's lack of fairness as the reason why he can't get excited about God and be busy about His work.

I can remember a few well known charities across the nation that were found stealing money from their prospective funds. Of course, only a few people were involved, but the theft gave the charities a "black-eye." We've all had experienced or know someone who has been dealt with unfairly by others and thought this question from **Psalms 94:3**: "*LORD, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph?*"

Who made the decision to be wicked and mistreat others? It wasn't God! God gave us all the power to do that which is right and sadly some of us won't. Evil is the absence of God. When one disobeys God, he or she is following Satan. Ask the person who uses this as the reason for not believing if they would rather God just strike people dead at the first violation of His law. There would be no one left!

God loves us and knows and has known that we would sin. He planned for the situation long ago. "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself,... In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence*" (**Ephesians 1:3-8**).

We have free will. We have a loving Father who knew we would make mistakes, therefore He sent His Son. He has been thinking of us and taking action for us since before time. There will be a day when those of His will live in a place and eternity of "fairness" or better yet, perfection.

Chris Moore

“THE LOCAL CHURCH AND I”

We are all blessed to be a part of God’s family, universally and locally. Local congregations working and worshipping together are a glory to God when they conduct themselves in harmony with God’s descriptions of the work and the Bible. I like to see a person proud of their local congregation, and certainly we each should strive to live so that the local church is proud that we are members that help make it up. Whatever we do, we should always consider whether it brings glory to God or shame to His Holy name **(Ephesians 3:20-21)**.

The local church provides you and me with all the blessings associated with the membership in the Lord’s church: The bond of fellowship; the strength of edification; the joy of worship; the balm of comfort; and the lift of encouragement. Local churches are there for us and can weep with us when we weep; minister to us when we are sick; comfort us when we are broken hearted; encourage us when we need lifting up; and exhort us to righteous living even when we grow slack.

In turn, we owe something as individual members to the local church. We certainly owe our undivided interest in the welfare of members both individual and collectively. We owe a steadfast attachment to the work and worship of the church. We own a sense of responsibility that doesn’t “pass the buck” but rather helps to bear the burden of the whole.

We owe the local church our desire and the wish of our every thought, the theme of our every prayer that we will build up in the most holy faith and be found acceptable to God. How strong is your desire for the church here to be a holy and spiritual temple for God’s dwelling?

We certainly owe the local church our cooperation in every facet of its work. The First Century church demonstrated a tremendous unity in sharing, caring **(Acts 4:32-35)** and their sense of being fellow-laborers. Bystanders and onlookers need to rethink and reexamine their relationship to the local church in light of the plan set forth in God’s Word.

We certainly owe the local church our encouragement through faithful attendance, consistent giving, and positive influence for that which is right. This is truly a remarkable congregation, and a great number of people take very seriously all these aspects of their membership here – a local congregation of God’s family. May we all grow in the grace of God and the unity of the Spirit.

Terry Broome