



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

August 20, 2017

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:

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:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THE RING OF LIFE

By Edd Sterchi

I took a good look at my key ring the other day. Don't ask me why, but for some reason it caught my attention! But, in looking at it, I noticed everything it was holding. On it were keys to my house, two vehicles, a post office box, the church building, and my office. My key ring even grips a flash drive (for storing computer files) and a small Swiss army knife. Access to a lot of my life is held by this little key ring.

You know, Jesus is like a key ring – He holds together all the important keys of a wonderful life. Notice, for example:

The key that unlocks the door of salvation is attached to Jesus **(Acts 4:12)**.

The key to all spiritual blessings is attached to Jesus **(Ephesus 1:3)**.

The key to true joy is attached to Jesus **(Philippians 3:3)**.

The key to success and satisfaction is attached to Jesus **(John 10:10)**.

The key to productivity in the church is attached to Jesus **(John 15:1-5)**.

The key to answered prayer is attached to Jesus **(John 15:7)**.

The key to glorifying God is attached to Jesus **(John 15:8)**.

The key to a good and proper marriage is attached to Jesus **(I Peter 3:1-7)**.

The key to surviving trials is attached to Jesus **(James 1:2-4, 12)**.

On and on we could go, but I'm sure you get the point by now. Jesus is the ring that holds a proper life together. So many wonder why their lives are such a mess when they have not attached any or all of their lives to Jesus. Others wonder why their lives aren't complete when they have only attached part of their lives to Jesus. But those who have fully attached every aspect of their lives to Jesus can well testify to the doors of opportunity, blessings, and bliss that He has helped to unlock in their lives. By the way – are you attached to Jesus?

TWO SCRAWNY FROGS

A man who had just purchased his first house in the country came into town and asked the owner of a restaurant if he could use a million frog legs. The proprietor asked where he could find so many frogs. “I’ve got a pond at home just full of them,” the homeowner replied. “They drive me crazy night and day.”

After they made an agreement for several hundred frogs, the farmer went back home. He returned a week later with two scrawny frogs and a sheepish grin on his face. “I guess I was wrong,” he stammered. “There’s just two frogs in the pond, but they sure were making a lot of noise!”

Application: We watch the news and think the whole world is as bad as the broadcasters portray it. Our neighbor runs down the government so much that we think that this is the worst possible country in which to live. If the weather outside is one degree above room temperature and the sun is shining, we say, “My, isn’t it hot out?” If it is one degree below room temperature and slightly overcast, we say, “It’s freezing outside!” We hear a few malcontents murmur about church members and we think the whole church is moments away from falling apart.

The next time you hear a lot of noise about how bad things are, just remember: it may be nothing more than a couple of chronic complainers who have little to do but grouch and croak!

Two things are at work here: 1. The complainers have too much time on their hands. The non-complainers are busy with life, bearing burdens and enjoying burdens. They are not speaking. They are busy! Often the only voice heard is that of the complainer. 2. We have the very human tendency to want to hear and believe the shocking, the ugly, and the tragic. Good news does not spur interest unless it benefits us directly.

Solution: Don’t assume the worst when two scrawny frogs start croaking!

“Without wood, a fire will go out. And without gossip, quarreling will stop. Charcoal and wood keep a fire going. In the same way a quarrelsome person keeps an argument going” (Proverbs 26:20-21).

“The north wind will bring rain. In the same way gossip brings angry looks. Hearing good news from a faraway place is like having a cool drink when you are tired” (Proverbs 25:23, 25).

Tim Woodward