



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 24, 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:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

SEVEN GIFTS THAT DO NOT COST A CENT

The Gift of Listening. But you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

The Gift of Affection. Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and hand-holds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

The Gift of Laughter. Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

The Gift of Written Notes. It can be a simple "Thank you for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

The Gift of a Compliment. A simple and sincere, "you look great in red," "you did a super job" or "that was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

The Gift of Favor. Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

The Gift of a Cheerful Disposition. The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. Really, it's not that hard to say, "Hello" or "Thank you."

Read Luke 6:38!

Selected

BY WHOSE STANDARDS?

In 1992, Dennis Lee Curtis was arrested for armed robbery in Rapid City, South Dakota. In his wallet, police found a list of rules Curtis had written for himself – guidelines for his robberies. For example, he wrote:

“I will not kill anyone unless I have to.”

“I will take cash and food stamps – no checks.”

“I will not rob mini-marts.”

“If I get chased by cops on foot, I will get away. If chased by vehicle, I will not put the lives of innocent civilians on the line.”

“I will rob only seven months out of the year.”

“I will enjoy robbing from the rich to give to the poor.”

This may seem odd, but Dennis Lee Curtis was a thief with some standards. But when we stood before the court, the judge did not consult Curtis’ list of rules. He pulled out the laws of the state by which to judge him, by which to convict him. In the same way, when we stand before God, He won’t consult man-made rules and standards. He will judge us by His unchanging Word.

Jesus said, *“He who rejects Me and does not receive My words has that which judges him: the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last days”* **(John 12:48)**. Observe: by God’s standards we are ALL guilty of sin. *“As it is written; ‘There is none righteous, no not one’...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* **(Romans 3:10, 23)**.

But the GOOD NEWS is that God is not only willing to forgive us, He has made a costly Provision for our salvation from sin. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* **(John 3:16)**.

On the cross, Jesus, the Son of God, paid the price for our redemption from sin. *“He Himself is the propitiation {or “atoning sacrifice”} for our sins, and not for our sins only but also for the whole world”* **(I John 2:2)**. Those who accept His offer of salvation through obedience, will receive the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life **(Ephesians 1:7; Romans 6:23)**.

Let’s be sure to live by God’s standards, not our own. For God’s Word is THE standard of judgment.

David R. Sargent