



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 28, 2014

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 am

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THE NEW YEAR

I like January 1st of each year. It reminds me of when I became a Christian. You see, I get to start all over each year. I cannot take anything from the last year with me, nor do I really want to bring anything from the last year.

You see, when I became a Christian, God washed me (**Acts 22:16; Ephesians 2:10**). It was not my working, but the working of God. I could do nothing to save my soul. It took God doing it for me. With my sins gone, I am a new creature (**Colossians 2:11-12; Romans 6:3-4**).

So since I am a new creature, all things are made new in me and with me. Which brings me back to the point I was making. The New Year is just that new. I can do with it as I please. For instance, I can strive to understand what God has done for me and thus have a better life in Christ, or I can just go through the year and not try to be more involved in understanding the love of God.

Here are some thoughts that might help us understand God's love better:

1. Do not read the Bible, study the Bible.
2. Do not just go to "church," be the church.
3. Do not just sit at the building in the assembly, take part in praising God for what He has done.
4. Do not just say you are a Christian, prove it by your life you live.

When God cleansed us, He also made us to be different, and that means to live as though we are dead, yet live so the world sees God.

So how do you see the New Year?

Dennis Hudgins

RESOLUTIONS

It has been said that good resolutions are a pleasant crop to sow – the seed springs up so readily. There is a brave show, especially at first. But between the sowing and the reaping there are difficulties – difficulties that tend to snuff out the early enthusiasm.

Benjamin Franklin told the story of a man who wanted to buy an ax from a smith. The man agreed to pay the advertised price only on the condition that the smith grind the ax until the entire surface of the head shone as brightly as the cutting edge. The smith accepted, on a condition of his own; that the purchaser power the grinding wheel. The man consented and the work began. After a time, the man inquired how the polishing was processing. Steadily, said the smith. The man turned the wheel some more and inquired again. Steadily, said the smith. Again more turning, again the inquiry. Again: Steadily. Finally exhausted from his labor, the man said he would take the ax as it was. No, no, said the smith; keep turning and we shall have the whole head like a mirror by and by. So we might, said the man, but I think I like the speckled ax best.

We extol the apostle Paul because he was a man who refused to settle for a speckled ax. He, too, encountered his problems, but he refused to give up on the resolution he had made to go to Jerusalem. His dogged determination is clearly evident in the following: *“And now, behold I am going to Jerusalem, bound in the Spirit, not knowing what shall befall me there; except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonments and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may accomplish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus to testify of the gospel of the grace of God.”* (Acts 20:22-24).

Resolutions are worthless without the follow-through. Paul knew this and calls to us across the centuries. *“And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”*

John Gipson