



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

December 4, 2016

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 SPEEDING TICKET

Recently, a man in Florida went to great lengths to get out of a simple speeding ticket. When the police officer who pulled him over was out of earshot, the man dialed 911. He told dispatchers that a murder was about to take place. He passionately described how a person was holding a gun and a murder was about to happen. The odd part was that he told dispatchers it was happening somewhere away from where he was. Several police officers were sent to the location the man specified. The dispatcher told the officers the name of the man who called in the emergency. The officer who pulled the man over recognized the name given as the same man he had pulled over and quickly put two and two together. The man confessed what he had done. It turns out he was hoping the police officer would quickly let him off and hurry to help with the “murder emergency.” Now this man has much more serious charges to face in addition to his speeding ticket.

Like the man, people often try to get away with deception to hide sin. One can't ever deceive God though. **Hebrews 4:12-13** states, *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”* There is absolutely nothing we can hide from God. We can't trick Him. We can't deceive Him. We won't be able to pull the wool over His eyes. All of our thoughts and intentions are seen. Therefore, let's live in a way that is open and honest with both God and others.

**Brett Petrillo**

# SAD WORDS

This past week, I heard someone on TV make this statement: “There is no God. What happens to us, just happens to us.” These are probably among the saddest words I have ever heard come out of someone’s mouth. It’s so pitiful to think that anyone could ever believe such a thing, much less to broadcast the fact of their pitiful condition. Because, you see, it is pitiful to think that someone could feel that way and deny God’s existence and any hope of eternal salvation they may have had.

By saying “what happens to us, just happens to us” leads me to believe this man thinks the world just came to exist from nothing, all on its own. Recently, I had written an article on the creation so I won’t revisit that today. It just seems to me that anyone with any common sense of being just can’t possibly believe that the heavens, this beautiful earth and all that dwell therein just came out of nowhere. To me, that is a preposterous concept.

If one believes that life “just happens to us,” that person is in a sad condition, not only in this present world but in the one to come after the judgment. I wonder whether that person believes that you can stand on a railroad track with a train bearing down on you and you can’t do anything about it. If you just stand there, you are going to die. Somehow, I can’t imagine that scenario as I believe that person will do his best to remove himself from harm’s way if he has any mind about him. But, just so, if you don’t do something about your spiritual soul, you are going to die an eternal death.

We read in **Mark 3:29**, *“He that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost has no forgiveness but is in danger of eternal damnation.”* To blaspheme is to speak evil of God and to deny His existence is the worst kind of blasphemy. To put one’s whole heart and being into what one can get out of this earthly life is limiting the power of God who made us!

Of course, God’s word reveals to us the fact that there have always been skeptics about His power and creation. I’m reminded of the story of **John 1:45ff** when Nathaniel asked Philip *“Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?”* He was speaking about Jesus and he certainly had his mind changed as he became a believer and follower of the One he didn’t intend to believe in.

Skeptics have included *“despisers of those who are good...lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...those having a form of godliness but denying the power of God...ever learning and never able to come to a knowledge of the truth...corrupt concerning the faith”* (**II Timothy 3:3ff**). Some of these folks are very well educated and know and understand about a lot of things but won’t admit the real truth of the knowledge of God and His Son. These same folks who deny God will face the judgment. Unbelievers will hear the saddest words ever to be spoken: *“Depart from Me”* (**Matthew 25:41**). **Royce Pendergrass (adapted)**