



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

February 13, 2022

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

**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Dale Barger

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7 pm

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## Love With Persistence

In his book entitled *Love More, Sin Less*, Aubrey Johnson says, “*The call of the gospel is a call to love. We are summoned by God’s love to share in the fellowship of loving spirits in heaven and on earth (Philippians 2:1-2). Making a commitment to the love-based life is the best decision one can ever make.*”

As Christians, we live in a world that is known more for “*self*” instead of “*selflessness*.” Generally speaking, this worldly attitude on love creates challenges for us. As we seek to put others first, others may not reciprocate this mindset. Therefore, we must be persistent and not be pushed back when loving our fellow man as Scripture directs us. Let us remember:

- We must love one another (**John 13:34-35**)
- We must serve one another (**Galatians 5:13**)
- We must abound in love (**1 Thess. 3:12**)
- We must love our enemies (**Matthew 5:44**)
- We must remember love is patient (**1 Cor. 13:4**)

As we engage an embattled world, may we equip ourselves with the love of Christ. **Colossians 3:14-15** says, “*But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*”

Allen Jones  
South Green Street church of Christ  
Glasgow, KY

# Do You Know About the First Valentine?

This month we will celebrate the holiday referred to as Valentine's Day. It is a time when we show others that we care for them. Small gifts of cards, candy, and flowers are part of the tradition.

But it might surprise you to find out that this holiday started out as a day to remember a Christian hero. According to the history books, Valentine was a 3<sup>rd</sup> century Christian preacher who lived near Rome. At this time the Roman Emperor Claudius II was ordering all young men not to marry. He thought they made better soldiers if they were single. No man could marry until he was too old to serve in the military. He also commanded that all people worship the false gods of Rome.

Valentine was arrested for performing Christian marriages and preaching that there was only one true God – the God of the Bible.

Valentine knew that no man – even the king – had the right to stop Christians from marrying (**1 Corinthians 7:8-9**). You see, while **Romans 13:1-7** tells us that we are to respect and obey our leaders, **Acts 5:29** tells us that when man's law contradicts God's law, we should obey God. And that's what Valentine did ignoring the king's orders. Claudius commanded Valentine's arrest.

While in prison, many Christians threw little notes of encouragement through Valentine's prison window. These were the first valentines.

In the end, Claudius had Valentine beheaded for his faith. It was because he loved the Lord and his fellow humans so much that he was willing to risk his life to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

This gives us pause when we think of Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day represents much more than romantic love. It is a day that honors God and those who love Him ... and obey Him.

Larry Fitzgerald  
Abilene, TX