



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

February 20, 2022

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**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

## The Christian's Advantage

There is not a person in the world who can live totally above sin. Paul told us in **Romans 3:23** that "*All have sinned*" and in **John 1:8** says, "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*" Everyone makes mistakes and fails a little short of what he would like to be!

This is why we have Jesus. When we sin and fall down He is there to help. If we could live perfect lives, there would be no need for Christ. In **First John 1:7** we find these words: "*But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sin.*" This is a promise given only to those who walk in the light or those who are Christians.

Christians as well as non-Christians make mistakes, but the Christian has an advantage because Jesus will forgive him when he repents.

The non-Christians have no one to forgive him and will continue to be without a savior until he becomes a child of God!

The unfaithful Christian is also without the benefit of Christ's blood until he repents, and so the best thing for one to do is get right with God and stay right. You will make mistakes but as long as you are willing to genuinely repent and to really try, you will enjoy the full benefit of the Lord's blood.

Brock Kendall  
Nettleton church of Christ  
Jonesboro, AR

# Once Saved, Always Saved? What the Experts Say

The “*once saved, always saved*” belief is very prevalent in the religious world today. It carries the idea that once one receives salvation they can never lose it no matter what they do or don’t do. But is it truly a Scriptural concept? Let’s go to the Bible and note what some inspired writers had to say on the subject. What do they know about “*once saved, always saved*”?

**If we are always saved no matter what, Paul did not know it.** In **Gal. 5:4**, he reminded those who were mixing in elements of the Old Law with Christianity that they had fallen out of God’s grace.

**If we are always saved no matter what, the Hebrew writer did not know it.** In chapter 2 and verse 1, he reminded Christians that if they do not pay attention to their lifestyle, they could drift away. He adds in verse 3 of the same chapter that if we neglect our salvation, we will not escape God’s judgment.

**If we are always saved no matter what, James did not know it.** He clearly indicated that Christians can wander from the truth, and in that state they are spiritually dead (**Jas. 5:19-20**).

**If we are always saved no matter what, Peter did not know it.** He dramatically penned as a warning what would happen to Christians who went back to the world after obeying the gospel – it would be worse for them that if they had never believed in the first place (**2 Pet. 2:20-22**).

**If we are always saved no matter what, John did not know it.** Second John 9 declares that it is possible for a Christian to stop abiding in the doctrine of Christ, and in that state has transgressed and no longer has God in his life.

Where did they all get this concept that we can fall away from Christ and be lost? They got it from Christ Himself. In **John 15:5-6**, Jesus said, “*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit...If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.*” (Note: the phrase “*does not abide*” in the Greek indicates “*does not continue to abide*”).

Christian, we must ever make sure that we are continually abiding in Christ, and if we find ourselves separated, that we confess our sins, repent of them, pray for forgiveness, and come back to Him (cf. **Acts 8:22, 1 John 1:9**). Now, once we are in heaven in our eternally saved state, we will always be there (**1 Thess. 4:17**), but while on the earth, we can forfeit our salvation – the inspired experts say so.

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