



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 26, 2023

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:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

What Brought YOU Here?

This morning churches across our nation will fill up with people gathering together for different reasons. For some it was the social interaction. For some it was to check the “*go to church*” box off our checklist. For some it was because someone made them. For some it was a habit. For some it was to see the visiting preacher. For some it was the dinner following services. For some it was the singing. For some it was a search for something that is missing. For some it was a desire to worship God in Spirit and truth. For some it was to feel good. For some it was to look good. For some it was good business. For some it was to surprise a loved one. For some it was to hear the band. For some it was to catch up on the latest gossip. For some it was to make things right with God. For some it was to take their children. For some it was to take their grandchildren. For some it was to ask for help. For some it was to see if someone needed help. For some it was because their name was down to perform a duty during the service. For some they had nothing better to do. For some it was to find the problems so they never had to return. For some it is a feeling of guilt that they must atone for. For some it was because a religious leader wants extra funds for the collection plate. For some it was to find a new church home. Here is our question: why are we here?

In today’s world, most have lost sight of the fact that God spends as much time asking why we go to church as He does asking if we go to church. God wants our hearts and minds to come together in holy worship to Him. He wants our lives to benefit from the teachings found in His Word. He wants us to be edified while at the same time edifying those around us. Many may not think about why they come to church, but we all should. We should examine our motives to make sure they are pure in God’s sight. Only then will we truly gain the benefits of going to church!

Walter Rayburn
Owl Hollow Church of Christ
Winchester, TN

I Don't Get Anything Out of the Services

Has worship become a lost art? I'm afraid that many of us go through the motions without ever really reaching out to God. Consequently, we tend to leave a service much as we came in. Before long there is the tendency to dismiss the whole concept of assembling for worship. At its best it is boring. At its worst it is almost unbearable. So we throw up our hands, discard church attendance, and find something to do that we really enjoy.

We see others that truly look forward to the experience, but for the life of us we can't figure out why. Yet deep down we suspect that maybe we are the losers. Why is it that for so many folks worship services are the high points of the week? Are we made of different clay? Or is it that we don't know the first thing about what they are doing?

I have discovered that true worship demands preparation. How can anyone be in the right frame of mind if he has stayed up late Saturday night, forced himself out of bed with the sound of the alarm, argued with his wife, and threatened his children with death if they don't get a move on? This is followed by piling into the car, driving faster than we should, arriving late, and having to stumble over people sitting on the ends of the pews to find a seat in the middle. And to add insult to injury, the preacher stands up and delivers a sermon on giving. I'm angry when I come in, and mad when I leave. It would take a miracle for me to get anything worthwhile out of a situation like that.

On the other hand, let's suppose that I get a good night's sleep on Saturday. I awake feeling refreshed. I have time to get ready without rushing. I arrive early (if I had my way one would have to park the car and walk about a block on a winding sidewalk through the trees to reach the front door of the church house) and greet the other worshipers. I take my seat with several minutes to spare. During this time I read the scriptures, meditate and pray. When the service does start I am in the spirit. I receive a blessing because I have prepared myself to receive a blessing.

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in the service. It's in ourselves.

John Gipson
Little Rock, AR