



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

February 9, 2014

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

**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Bobby Bear  
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

## TWINKIES & ROOT BEER

*“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13:2).*

A little boy set out to meet God. He thought it could be a long trip to where God lives so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his little suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry so he offered him a Twinkie.

The elderly gentleman gratefully accepted it and smiled at the lad. His smile was so pleasant the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him the biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, “What did you do today that made you so happy?” He replied, “I had lunch with God.” But before his mother could respond, he added, “You know what? He’s got the most beautiful smile I’ve ever seen!”

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and asked, “Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?” He replied, “I ate Twinkies in the park with God.” Before his son responded, he added, “You know, he’s much younger than I expected.”

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally! **Author Unknown**

## BEING CAREFUL WITH OUR TONGUE

*“Six things the Lord hates, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness and one who sows discord among brethren” (Proverbs 6:16-19).*

Did you notice? Three of God’s most hated sins are sins of the tongue: lying, being a false witness and sowing discord.

**A lying tongue.** Honesty is the foundation stone in religion and relationships. Nothing robs us of our Christian character, influence and credibility as quickly as a lying tongue. Honesty affects every relationship in life, both with God and others. One of the reasons we do not get along with family, friends, church members, neighbors, or nation is due to our dishonesty. The tongue is not for lying.

**An unruly tongue.** Some of us stay in trouble because of an unruly tongue: lying, scolding, provoking, biting and complaining. Sharp words hurt in so many ways. Solomon said, *“He who guards his tongue keeps himself from calamity.”* If it appears that we are always in trouble, in the midst of calamity, could it be because of an unruly tongue?

**A complaining tongue.** Have you noticed that some folks are never content, regardless of how richly God blesses them? They are always complaining about something or somebody. Scripture admonishes, *“Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure” (Philippians 2:14-15).* A complaining tongue usually indicates one who is mad at God and others.

**A critical tongue.** Judging others is God’s prerogative. One of the most frightening verses in the Bible is *“Judge not, that you be not judged, for with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you” (Matthew 7:1-2).* I know some miserable people, and every time I meet them they are critical of others. We do not have to wait until judgment to reap what we sow. A judging, critical tongue stays miserable in this life and in the world to come.

**A tongue that sows discord.** Nothing speaks of the emptiness of one’s religion as quickly as the tongue that sows discord among brethren. I wonder how many will never come to Jesus because they have been turned off from true and pure religion by a careless tongue? Ten thousand good deeds, ten thousand careful words, cannot overcome one old sore tongue.

**A tongue that will not confess.** *“If you confess Me before men, I will confess you before the Father in heaven; but if you deny Me before men I will deny you before the Father” (Matthew 10:32-33).* Not only are we to use our tongue to confess Jesus, we are to *“confess our sins and faults one to another and pray for one another” (James 5:16).* God created our tongues for praising Him and for edifying one another. What a tragedy when we do not use them for this purpose. Ask God today for help in overcoming sins of the tongue. **Randall Caselman**