



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

January 14, 2024

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

## Wardrobe Change

Have you ever voyaged into the deep recesses of your closet only to discover clothing that is well past its time? The style is out, they no longer fit, and the holes are no longer justifiable in polite society. We would be embarrassed to be caught wearing some such things we find in there. Some clothes have so much wear and tear that salvaging them even for rags may be questionable! Time for them to go into the trash and time for a wardrobe change.

All Christians experience a wardrobe change! In fact, when we are baptized, we put on Christ (**Gal. 3:27**). Part of our charge is to put on the “armor of light” and “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (**Rom. 13:12-14**). We even have access to God’s armor (**Eph. 6:10-20**).

Colossians 3 gives a frightening list of those old clothes that aren’t worth salvaging. Things from our old lives that not only need to be put off, but put to death! Fornication, impurity, evil desires, greed, anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lies, etc., all must be trashed (**Col. 3:5-9**).

Our new wardrobe as God’s children is completely different! **Colossians 3:12-14** gives us the replacement for all that we must put off. Our new selves are clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, and forgiveness.

Finally, love unites all our clothing together as a beautiful outfit. Love completes the ensemble of Christian character and ties everything together.

May we resolve to have a wardrobe full of the adornments of God!

Logan Summers  
Graeber Road church of Christ  
Rosenberg, TX

# When Christ is Your Life

God has made great promises to those who live for Christ. Consider what Paul wrote about living for Christ: “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you*” (**Philippians 1:21-24**). Notice from this text that Paul lived for Christ: “*For to me to live is Christ*” (**v.21**). Because Paul lived for Christ, he enjoyed wonderful blessings and promises. These same blessings and promises are given to those who live for Christ today. Consider the following blessings:

**When Christ is your life, there is no reason to fear death (v.21).** Paul affirmed that to die was “*gain*.” Generally, people fear and dread death. Death is referred to in Scripture as the “*king of terrors*” (**Job 18:14**). When Isaiah told Hezekiah, king of Judah, to set his house in order because he would soon die, Hezekiah did what most would do. He wept and prayed to God (**Isaiah 38:1-3**). However, Jesus came and makes it possible to face death with calm confidence and assurance (**Hebrews 2:14-15**). When faithful Christians walk through the “*valley of the shadow of death*,” we can pass through that valley in peace.

**When Christ is your life, you can anticipate going to be with Christ (v.23).** Notice from the text that Paul had a great desire to die (“*depart*”) because at death, he would go to be with Christ. Sometimes, one who is enduring great suffering and pain may desire death to escape the trial of affliction. However, Paul had a higher, purer motive for wanting to die. He desired to depart so that he could be with Jesus. All who live for Christ will be with Him in eternity (**II Corinthians 5:8**)!

**When Christ is your life, you can anticipate going to a place that is far better than living in this world (v.23).** The term translated “*far*” is a word that suggests there is something “*much*” better—ininitely better—than anything the world has to offer. At death, those who have lived for Christ will be happy; free from temptation; free from sin, sorrow and trials. Heaven is far better!

In view of these great promises, there is little wonder that Paul wrote: “*Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice*” (**Philippians 4:4**). When Christ is your life, there is great reason to rejoice! Is Christ your life?

Mark Lindley  
Chapman church of Christ  
Ripley, MS