



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 25, 2015

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

Elders:
Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:
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 10:00 a.m.

Email:
rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:
Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

ARE YOU A SPECTATOR?

The American League and National League division games in Major League Baseball have been great, haven't they? Okay, so the Tigers didn't have the start we'd like, but there are more opportunities to win, aren't there?

When one goes to a baseball, football or basketball game, that person goes as a spectator. There may be those of us who would love to play. There may even be those who think they could play and win, but only the players can make that happen on the field or court. Otherwise, we are confined to the seats or bleachers. The Christian life, however, is not like this. We are expected to get involved. We cannot sit as spectators while people are losing their lives and their souls. We must act!

The apostle John wrote that when we see someone in need, we just cannot sit as spectators. He wrote, "*But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?*" (**I John 3:17 NASB**).

Can you see the word, "spectator," here? It's there. John wrote, "*sees his brother in need.*" The word translated "sees" is from a word in the original that means "spectator." If one who calls himself a Christian watches from a distance and won't help, but instead closes his heart, then how does the love of God abide in him?

It's easy to be a spectator, but it takes more commitment to be a helper. A spectator merely occupies a seat and has a foam finger in his hand. The spectator yells, "Yay! Way to go!" and then leaves the stadium not caring what the players may be suffering.

We can't be spectators sitting "on the sidelines." We must get involved. We must help. There's a song we sing that tells us "*Who will follow Jesus/standing for the right?/Holding up His banner/In the thickest fight/Listening for His orders/Ready to obey/Who will follow Jesus/ Serving Him today?*"

Have you been sitting on the sideline? Isn't it time to get into the action and start using your life following Jesus?

John Henson

THE PATH TO PEACE

By Kerry Duke

One of the great passages in the Bible on having peace of mind is in Philippians 4. Here are the keys:

Make up your mind to be happy. “*Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice*” (vs. 4). Abraham Lincoln said a man is about as happy as he makes up his mind to be. There are heartaches we can’t avoid, but there is great joy in the Lord if we will just choose it.

Learn to yield to others. “*Let your moderation be known unto all men*” (v. 5). This moderation means to be reasonable, fair, and gentle. If you insist on always having your way you will never be at rest inside.

Don't worry! “*Be careful for nothing*” (v. 6). Don’t worry or be anxious. Worry is a choice. It is a habit, and a bad one at that. Worry is unproductive, harmful and often unfounded. The devil wants you to worry. Jesus does not.

Pray! Instead of wearing yourself out with worry, put your time into praying: “*in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*” (v. 6). Remember and believe that “*the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*” (**James 5:16**).

Be thankful. Let your prayer be made “with thanksgiving” (v. 6). Don’t just ask God to help. Thank Him for what you have. Thank Him that things are not worse. This too is a choice and a habit of mind. There is enough sunshine in anyone’s life to brighten the way. All we have to do is notice it.

Think about good things. Think about things that are true, honorable, just, pure, truly beautiful, and of good report (v. 8). What we dwell on is who we are (**Proverbs 23:7**). Make up your mind to think on these things. Fill your heart with the Word of God and the hope of heaven.

Be a doer of the Word. Put these things into practice every day. If we do them, the God of peace will be with us (v. 9). To have true peace you must not only change your thinking. You have to change your life. Give your life fully to God.

Be content. “*I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content*” (v. 11). Have you learned to be content? Paul even knew how to be content when he was hungry (v. 12)! Don’t complain. You can never be at peace if you’re always wanting something else.

You can do it! “*I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me*” (v. 13). By the grace of God Paul endured health problems, slander, beatings, and prison. Surely your situation is not worse than Paul’s.

Do these things, and “*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus*” (**V.7**). Put them on your “to do” list as you begin each day and you will end up a very rich person.