



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 27, 2019

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
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

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

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

By Jim Yates

It's Sunday morning, and the neighborhood is alive with activities. One neighbor is backing his boat out of the driveway as his family prepares for a day at the lake. Another sits comfortably on his front porch reading the newspaper, while yet another prepares a leisurely breakfast after the family has slept late to rest up after an already busy weekend of late night activities. At the same time, a young Christian family is racing to find a child's missing pair of shoes so they can get to church on time.

Has this ever happened around your house? If so, you may feel as if you're swimming upstream against a current of apathy. It might even be easy to be influenced by those around you to give in or slack off about going to worship regularly. Before you do that, think about what you'll miss.

The joy of gathering with others who love to praise God for His greatness. *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).*

The encouragement, concern, and unity that occurs when believers meet together. *"So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other" (I Corinthians 12:25).*

Obedience to God's teaching to meet together regularly. *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

That instruction, edification, and challenge that comes from the teaching of God's Word. *"All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).*

No other Sunday activity can replace what you'll get by meeting with fellow believers, and God is pleased. He *"seeks worshippers" (John 4:23)*. Someone has said, "Our week's not complete till we make it our goal to honor the Lord's Day and nourish our soul. The help that we need for the task that we face will come as we worship and draw on God's grace." Christians are like coals of fire – together they glow, but apart they grow cold!

Remember: Seven days without worship makes one weak.

JESUS IS THE CHRIST

“Which He will bring about at the proper time – He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords” I Timothy 6:15

As the church began to spread throughout the world, the good confession on each Christians’ lips was *“Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.”* The confession called to view at least two points of faith. One, Jesus is divine, the Son of God. The second, Jesus is the Christ, God’s anointed king of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus was not the Christ for which most of the Jews looked and hoped. They were wanting God’s anointed to be like King David. They wanted a kingdom of earthly grandeur like David and Solomon had ruled. They wanted to cast off the dominance of Rome, and even have their king rule the world.

The concept of a “suffering servant messiah” was just too far out of their thinking. The prophecy about the Christ from **Isaiah 53** simply did not fit into their preconceived ideas. Jesus just did not fit into their “box.” So many still cannot really see the King of Glory because they are looking for someone entirely different.

During those ancient days of Israel, prophets, priests and kings were anointed. Jesus is our Christ, God’s anointed prophet, priest and king. In the presence of Moses and Elijah, God said: *“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased: listen to Him!’”* (**Matthew 17:5**). The inspired writer called Jesus the greatest high priest who offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins, once and for all. *“And not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption”* (**Hebrews 9:12**). Jesus told the disciples he had all authority (**Matthew 28:18**). Then a few weeks later, Peter made the bold and firm proclamation in Jerusalem: *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ – this Jesus whom you crucified.”* (**Acts 2:36**).

The Jews of His day rejected Jesus because He wasn’t what they wanted. Isn’t that about the same as those persons of any nationality or ethnicity today. Jesus is about changing hearts, the kingdom of God in our lives. So many of us today want Jesus to conform to us, not rule us. We want a prophet to tell us what we want to hear, not what we need to hear. We want a priest to atone for our sin, but not call us to live in righteousness.

Gerald Elliott