



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

January 5, 2020

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
Larry Hill
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 7:00 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

MIND TEST

In Philippians, Paul gave us a litmus test, so to speak, for what should be on or in our minds. *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8).* My question is: “If I am to focus my mind on these things, can I practice or support anything that wouldn’t make this list?” I believe we know the answer to this.

“Whatever things are true...” equals honesty. *“Things noble...”* equals integrity. *“Just”* equals fair and righteous. *“Things pure”* equals holy and unblemished. *“Things lovely”* equals opposite of the ugliness we find in worldliness. *“Good report”* equals good reputation, above reproach. *“Virtue”* equals obvious goodness. *“Anything praiseworthy”* equals anything that supports godliness and morality, ethics, etc.

Now, things in your life or on your mind that you can’t plug into that equation of goodness or formula for holiness are to be abandoned.

Another “test” an old preacher taught me was, “If you can’t thank God, in prayer, for whatever you say or do, don’t do it.” If you would be ashamed to pray to God for His endorsement or support of an activity or event, probably you should leave it alone.

My mother, concerning dating, always told me, “If you would not want to bring this person to meet me, leave her where you found her.” I think that principle is the same as what we are talking about here.

I challenge us all to think about our lives and the way we are living. Inventory what we are doing and supporting. Paul tells us what to do while we are doing so: *“Test all things, hold fast what is good” (I Thessalonians 5:21).* It’s not hard to do, it just takes a willingness to do it. That is hard for all of us at times.

Chris Moore

The Gathering

The phenomenon is called “**shikadamari**” in Japanese. A loose translation would be, “deer gathering spot.”

A large population of free-roaming deer live in and around the Japanese city of Nara, spending most of their time in the city park.

Every summer evening at around 6:30, over 600 deer gather in the same spot for the same amount of time. The deer quietly come together, sit down for about an hour, then stand back up and disperse to different parts of the park.

While onlookers are impressed by the display of consistency of the gathering of the deer, nobody has been able to explain the purpose (*Zora News*, August 20, 2019).

Someone outside of the Lord’s church might see Christians coming together on a regular basis at the same times, and for the same lengths of time, yet not understand the purpose for those gatherings.

Members of the body of Christ understand that assembling together on a regular basis to worship God and learn more of His Word is not only commanded in Scripture but is also vital for spiritual growth and survival.

According to **Hebrews 10:24-25**, Christians are to come together on a regular basis in order to stir up love and good works and to encourage one another. Those things aren’t possible to accomplish if brothers and sisters in Christ don’t gather together on a regular basis.

Colossians 3:16 instructs Christians to teach and admonish one another. That can’t happen if Christians don’t gather together on a regular basis.

Acts 20:7 gives us the example of Christians gathering consistently on the first day of the week in order to break bread together.

In **Acts 15:30-31**, we read about the congregation in Antioch coming together to listen to the reading of a letter written to them by the apostles, elders of Jerusalem. The Christians who heard the letter rejoiced because of the encouragement it brought.

The consistent and regular gathering of Christians is no mystery.

Troy Albers