



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

January 8, 2023

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**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

## Pray for Others Without Ceasing

Paul's famously inspired words in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, "*pray without ceasing*" really come to light when observing all of his two letters to the church in Thessalonica. As documented in **Acts 17**, Paul, Silas, and Timothy establish the Lord's church there after spending three Sabbaths reasoning with them from the Scriptures (**v. 2**). Ultimately, angry Jews chase them out of town, leaving the newly found congregation to be on its own, but of course, not without having been taught and solidified with the Truth.

Paul commends these faithful children and greatly encourages them, by way of example, in his own prayer life to be ceaseless in prayer for others. He writes, "*we give thanks to God always for all of you*" (**1 Thess. 1:2**); "*For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God*" (**1 Thess. 2:13**); "*as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face*" (**1 Thess. 3:10**); "*We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren*" (**2 Thess. 1:3**); "*To this end also we pray for you always*" (**2 Thess. 1:11**); "*But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren*" (**2 Thess. 2:13**).

As is fitting, take time this season (and every season) to give thanks to God for everything, for this is His will for us (**1 Thess. 5:18**). But, also, don't neglect your own requests for prayer. Paul twice asks the good brethren in Thessalonica to "*pray for us*" (**1 Thess. 5:25**; **2 Thess. 3:1**). The constant encouragement of praying for others without ceasing will surely help see us through our spiritual walk together until our Lord comes again.

Jon Warnes  
Brown Trail church of Christ  
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# On Sale NOW!

The holidays are almost over. Everyone will soon be settling back into a rhythm that will take most people through the remainder of the winter and through the first part of spring. However, every day I check my “junk email” account, I see hundreds of email subject lines from hundreds of different companies such as this: “Christmas sale! You don’t want to miss this event.” “Treat yourself NOW!” “*Don’t miss an EXTRA 40% off year end.*” After months of Christmas sales and shopping and spending, my thought at seeing these is to ask, “*really???*”

Just once I’d like to see a company advertise and send me an email that says, “*Andy, you have everything you need. Don’t buy anything else from us for a while*” or “*Andy, you spend enough during the holidays, please disregard this ad*” or “*Be content with what you have. Don’t open me.*” Dare, I, to dream?

That message of being content and staying put and being happy with what you have will, in fact, not be found in many of the places we go in this world. Indeed, many God-fearing people will fear “*missing out*” on the next great thing more than they will dedicate themselves to being content with what they have. You know what the Bible calls that? In a word: **idolatry**. Yes, the same word that’s associated with bowing down and worshipping a statue or totem is the same word that the apostle Paul associates with a mind that is constantly scanning the ads for the “*newer*” and “*better*” or the “*great sale*” to come. Read **Colossians 3:5** very carefully, “*Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*”

For Christians who wish to keep their minds on heavenly things, they (we) must be aware of the desire to find happiness and fulfillment in earthly things (see **Colossians 3:1-2**). There will always be another CLEARANCE SALE. There will always be another event that “*You won’t wanna miss.*” There will always be another place ready and all too willing to “*save you money.*” Yet, these places never will be, a substitute for the God who says, “*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you’*” (**Hebrews 13:5**). What a promise. What a deal! Act now.

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