



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

July 10, 2016

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:

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

BE PATIENT

This writer's taste buds can almost nearly always generally distinguish instant potatoes from real mashed potatoes. The imposter can be tolerated, but the real is preferred. However, time constraints may make the real a less-real possibility for some meals. There is peeling, cutting, rinsing, boiling, mashing, adding milk, butter, salt and pepper, then more stirring that has to be done in order to make real mashed potatoes. It is a time-consuming process.

Mark's record of Jesus calling the disciples at the Sea of Galilee says, *"Now as He walked at the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, 'Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men'" (Mark 1:16-17).* Notice that little bit of additional information that Mark gives: "to become."

Jesus did not promise these men instant discipleship capabilities. He evidently had a lengthy training process in mind for them. Even after three-plus years of instruction and in-the-field training, Jesus could say, *"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now" (John 16:12).* Their "fishing" abilities were still being enhanced.

Some of us who made resolutions to make spiritual improvements in the New Year may already be seeing challenges to those plans. Some may doubt whether they are going to be able to make any progress at all. One of those fishermen mentioned above instructed us to add *"..to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness" (II Peter 1:6).* The word, "patience" means "cheerful (or hopeful) endurance" (Strong's). Brothers and sisters, be patient (persistent) and you will be blessed **(II Peter 1:8)**. Real improvement takes time.

J. Brooks Boyd Jr.

HOPE

When I was about 8 years old, I was asked by a neighborhood friend to attend an afternoon of swimming. I could not swim but I thought, “Just getting to tag along would be fun.” Within a few minutes of arriving at our destination, I was easily talked into getting in the water while holding on to the side of the pool. A few more minutes passed and I slipped into the water, gasping, fighting vigorously to return to my safe state. No matter how hard I tried, I could not regain any type of traction or get my head above water. My peers were busy playing and did not notice my plight. I did not have any hope of getting out of my situation. Thank goodness I grabbed a limb of another child, he realized I was in trouble, and he helped to get me back to the side of the pool. I, again, had hope. I went from being hopeless to having hope.

Regardless of the situation, challenges, or the news we receive, Christians have hope! **Hebrews 6:19** says, *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.”* We clearly understand the imagery of an anchor. As Christians, we have a life of hope which is unshakeable in the face of obstacles in our path. When the waters crash into the ship, it will absorb the pressure and not drift. As the stormy waters of life push us in all directions, we too, will not drift so long as we are anchored in Christ...this is our hope.

As Christians, what is our hope? Our obedience allows us to have eternal hope. **Titus 1:2** says, *“...in hope of eternal life which God who cannot lie, promised before time began...”* **Colossians 1:5** paints a richer picture of what it means to have hope, *“Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel...”*

Do you, by your obedience and commitment to your Christian walk, have the hope of Heaven? If we are in Christ, we have hope of a future life with Him when He returns (**Colossians 1:27**). We can go from being hopeless to being full of hope because of God’s promises (**Hebrews 10:23**). God is faithful, are we? He is our only hope! **Allen Jones**