



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 23, 2017

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:**  
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:**  
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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## EASY COME, EASY GO

Most of us are astonished at the amounts of money earned by professional athletes. Despite making millions of dollars, many of these famous athletes end up declaring bankruptcy. A 2009 Sports Illustrated documentary concluded that as many as 78% of NFL players face financial difficulty within two years of retirement. NBA statistics were as high as 60 percent.

While every case was different, bad investments certainly played a part. Besides his dog-fighting conviction, Michael Vick lost six million dollars in car rental, real estate, and wine shop investments. John Elway had his agent illegally invest 15 million dollars in a Ponzi scheme. Sheryl Swoopes, great women's basketball player, blew through her 50 million dollars through bad investments. Mike Tyson lost 400 million through a divorce and extravagant spending (two Las Vegas mansions, \$173,000 necklace, etc.).

Jesus warned His audience one day (**Luke 12**), "*For not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.*" He illustrates that truth with a prosperous farmer whose bountiful harvest demanded the building of new storage barns. However, that man's death deprived him of ever using or enjoying what he had. Jesus called anyone who is rich in stuff but poor in their relationship with God "a fool."

Yet today, people will sacrifice their health, family and integrity to get ahead. We do this knowing full well that our wealth will be lost through poor investment, national crisis, natural disaster, or death. Let's focus on what is really important – treasures laid up in heaven!

**Don Loftis**

# WHAT WE CAN KNOW AND BE SURE OF

Throughout life there are many things that we can know and be certain of. “The only things certain in life is death and taxes” is a phrase you have probably heard many times. There are things we can know with 100 percent certainty and we can be sure of in regards to God and Jesus.

First and foremost we can be certain that God exists. *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him”* (**Hebrews 11:6**). We can know for certain that God does exist. With this belief, we can build a foundation of faith which leads to obedience and service to Him.

We can also know with certainty that God has always existed and will forever exist. *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God”* (**Psalms 90:2**). We can know that God has forever been and will forever be.

We can also know that God is to be obeyed. *“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome”* (**I John 5:3**). God has given us the ability to chose. But with that ability to choose, He desires us to choose to follow Him. God doesn’t make us follow Him or obey Him. But we should be in obedience to Him through our love for Him. If we are following God’s commands out of love, then these commands will not be burdensome to us.

We can also know for certain that we will receive a reward if we choose to obey Him. **Hebrews 11:6** (quoted in earlier paragraph) states that He rewards those who seek Him. Will you receive God’s reward because you have chosen to follow Him?