



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 28, 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 7:00 pm

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## A VALUABLE TEACHER

A little more than ten years ago, I went through a rather difficult time. I had noticed a small knot on my neck, went to the doctor, and was diagnosed with having a tumor in one of my salivary glands. According to what the doctors told me, tumors in this particular salivary gland typically have a 50/50 chance of malignancy. As if that weren't enough, doctors also told me of three potential complications from the surgery I needed that would have an impact on my speech. Suddenly I went from being a busy, healthy person to being forced to acknowledge my own mortality, and to imagine what life would be like without being able to preach. It was disconcerting to say the least.

But during this time of trial, I can say that the adversity had a way of separating the dross from the gold in my life. Suddenly I saw with greater clarity than possibly ever before, the real issues of life. Those issues had nothing to do with sports (including my beloved Pittsburgh Steelers), bills, possessions, or any other such matters. The issues that became clear to me were my relationship with God, my family, and my friends.

During those few weeks, I had a lot of time to think; not about the daily routine, but about life in general. I was humbled by my dispensability. I became more aware of my inadequacies. And I was dissatisfied with the impact for good that I had made in this world.

Eventually, I had surgery. The tumor was removed, and the pathology report concluded that the tumor was benign. My fears were relieved, many prayers were answered, and I had a renewed vision of what is truly important in life.

Would I want to go through this experience again? Absolutely not! Did I learn anything from the whole experience? Without question! While suffering and anxiety are things we would rarely, if ever choose for ourselves, they are valuable teachers, nonetheless.

*"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn your statutes"* (Psalm 119:71).

**Steve Higginbotham**

# Three Things Christians Need Today

Imagine encountering some of the people that Jesus encountered during His lifetime. Would you respond like Jesus did? Imagine coming face-to-face with a leper, a woman with a blood malady of 12 years, a woman caught in adultery, beggars, ingrates, disfigured and unsightly invalids, numerous diseased, tricksters, spoiled rich brats, a traitor, hateful and violent soldiers, a cowardly king, a spineless governor, etc., etc. How would you treat them? We can learn much from our Great Example!

**Jesus was humble!** How difficult it must have been for the Son of God to lower Himself before His own creation! It is an awe-inspiring scene indeed to picture Jesus as He *“began to wash the disciples feet and to wipe them”* (**John 13:15**). The humility of Christ is set forth in exemplary detail for us in **Philippians 2:3**, *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.”* This was the mind of our Lord (**v. 5**). The humble heart says, “I am not better than you!”

**Jesus was respectful!** How difficult it must have been for the Son of Man to be respectful of His imperfect creations as so many of them were disrespectful of Him! There were those who intentionally and repeatedly sought to test Him (**Matt. 16:1**); those who would not leave Him alone (**Matt. 14:13-14**); those who bound Him, treated Him like a criminal, put Him on mock trials, struck Him, insulted Him, scourged Him and crucified Him. Yet, what was Jesus’ response? How did He treat those who mistreated Him so severely? *“When He was reviled, He did not revile in return”* (**1 Pet. 2:23**). When He had opportunity to put His enemies in their place and destroy them, He “kept silent” (**Matt. 26:63; Isa. 53:7**). He broke His silence only to say things like, *“Father, forgive them”* (**Luke 23:34**). The respectful heart says, “I will be considerate of you no matter what!”

**Jesus was compassionate!** How difficult it must have been at times for the human side of Jesus to maintain a heart of compassion for the cruel and heartless self-seekers. Yet, Jesus did not just “possess” compassion (if such could be merely possessed), but He “exhibited” compassion. Scripture says that *“He was moved with compassion”* for the multitudes (**Matt. 9:36**). His sympathetic feeling of pity for His shepherd-less creation was so deep that He could not but do something to alleviate their distress. The compassionate heart says, “I feel for you and I want to help you!”

Brethren, how humble, respectful and compassionate are we? Do we seek to treat others the way our Lord did?

**David Sproule**