



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 2, 2023

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**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

## True Freedom

In 1776, the 13 British colonies in North America protested the tyranny of the king of England and engaged in a struggle that gave birth to a brand new republic. The infant nation soon adopted that now famous document known as the Declaration of Independence. We celebrate this emancipation every July 4th.

Almost 2,000 years ago, the Lord Jesus cried out on the cross, "*It is finished*" (**John 19:30**), proclaiming the believer's "*declaration of independence*." All of humanity was under the tyranny of sin and death. But Christ, the sinless One, took our place on Calvary and died for each of our sins. Having satisfied God's righteous demands, He now sets free for eternity all who trust in and obey Him.

Paul wrote, "*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us*" (**Gal. 3:13**). Earlier in Scripture we read the inspired words of the apostle, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death*" (**Rom. 8:1-2**). Thus, those who have been redeemed and set free are urged to "*stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free*" (**Gal. 5:1**). Also we are reminded never to use this liberty as a license to indulge sin in our lives, but rather in service for good (**Gal. 5:13**).

Jesus has set us free to live our lives to the fullest with peace of heart and joy of soul. Jesus has set us free to be fruitful and serve with great zeal. Jesus has set us free to show the world what true liberty, love, and life is all about.

We should thank God for the freedom we enjoy as United States citizens. But even greater than that, we should praise Him for the eternal freedom that is found in Christ! And this we should celebrate every Sunday and live it every day.

*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"* (**John 8:36**).

Edd Sterchi  
Broadway church of Christ  
Campbellsville, KY

# Celebrate Freedom

In a letter dated July 3, 1776, John Adams wrote to his wife:

*“This will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”*

The second President of the United States was right. Without question, our freedom should be celebrated! However, in order to celebrate properly, we must understand our freedom. Consider the spiritual truths as well.

**Freedom comes at a high cost.** The last line of the Declaration of Independence says: *“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”* Jesus Christ gave His life to secure our eternal freedom (**Rom. 6:3-9; 8:1-4**). You and I must choose to die to self and live for Christ in order to be truly free (**Gal. 2:20**).

**Freedom must be maintained.** Freedom can be lost. History has shown again and again that nations can be destroyed. Spiritual freedom can be lost as well (**John 8:31-36; Heb. 3:12; Gal. 5:4**).

**Freedom can be dangerous.** People with free will and free rein often make wicked choices. We all choose to serve someone or something (**Rom. 6:16-18, 22**).

**Freedom must be loved.** Fools take freedom for granted. The wise recognized that they’d been blessed. *“Live as people who are free...living as servants of God”* (**1 Pet. 2:16; cf. Gal. 5:1**).

Bart Warren  
South Green Street church of Christ  
Glasgow, KY