



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 31, 2016

P.O. Box 416  
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**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:**

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## ‘I’ EXAM: FOCUS ON CHRIST

Where is your focus? This is a question each Christian must answer for himself. Christianity is not something that we do for just a little while. It is a way of life that must be lived everyday. Neither is it like a coat that we put on and take off with the changing temperature. When we put Christ on in baptism, we are to keep Him on until death. *“But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing” (II Thessalonians 3:13).*

The Christian life is to be a balanced life. We are not to go to the left or to the right but we are to stay upon the narrow way with the strait gate. And because Christianity is a way of life, we are also to be balanced in every aspect of our lives. Others should see Christ in us wherever we are and whatever we do whether it be at work, at school, or at play. We, of all people, should be known for our honesty, our integrity, and our love for our fellowman.

It is a tremendous blessing to be a part of God’s family! The love the brethren have one for another is the glue that holds the church together. We ought to make the most of every opportunity to spend time with our Christian family. After all, the faithful in Christ are assured that they will spend an eternity together in heaven. *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (I John 5:13).*

God has promised us such a wonderful reward – a beautiful mansion (**John 14:1-6**) where there will be no more death, tears, sorrow or pain (**Revelation 21:4**). And He has further promised that nothing can separate us from His love (**Romans 8:35-39**). Knowing these things, how can we turn away from our Lord? May we remain faithful to God until our physical death and gain a share in His inheritance.

**Dale Grissom**

## ARE THERE FEW THAT BE SAVED?

With all the religions today, many may believe that there are masses of people from every remote denomination all across the world that will inhabit the heavenly realm. The idea which has long been embraced is that all denominational members are Christians on the highway to Heaven yet, some are taking different routes. It is for this reason, that most all Americans believe they are saved and that Heaven will be very crowded; however, the Bible states otherwise.

When Jesus went through the cities and villages teaching the Gospel, one came unto Him with a curious question. He said, “*Lord, are there few that be saved?*” (**Luke 13:23**). This question was one of importance to the inquirer for he needed to know if the way of salvation would be one in which many people were going so he could follow or if the way was less widely known. Incidentally, the same question is applicable to everyone today. Is it safe to follow the majority of the religious world or should one look for a faithful few? The answer Jesus gave the inquirer may be shocking to some. Notice what He said: “*And He said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.*” (**Luke 13:24**). In essence, Jesus said, “*Yes, only few will be saved, and the only way it will happen is by struggling.*” Jesus wanted all of the world to know that even though many people try to get in the strait (narrow) gate they won’t be able because they are too heavy with the weighty sins of the world. This means that masses of people all across the world are being deceived into thinking they are saved because Jesus says only a few will be able to enter. Thus, the plea of John the apostle rings true today: “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*” (**I John 4:1**).

Consequently, each person should ask, “Have I been deceived?” The Bible is plain in stating that Jesus’ way is the only way (**Colossians 3:17; Matthew 16:24**). He was responsible for building one church (**Matthew 16:18**) and He is the Savior that has provided one way of salvation (**Acts 4:12**). No other route to Heaven can be followed other than the route that Jesus freely paved. The route includes: faith (**Hebrews 11:6**), repentance (**Luke 13:3**), confession (**Matthew 10:32**), and baptism (**I Peter 3:21**). Following that blood paved route (**Revelation 12:5**) will ensure one that he is a part of the few that are saved.

Derrick Coble