



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

July 5, 2015

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Roger Carter  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Kirby Hinds

**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

**Monday**

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

**Email:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## HEAVEN – HOME OF THE SOUL

Heaven will be a sweet type of home (**Ecclesiastes 12:5**). It is the home that awaits us beyond the grave, a place of eternal bliss. There the friendships on earth, which cruel death has severed, will never more be broken. In heaven, parted loved ones and friends shall meet again, never to be separated.

It is an inspiring hope that when we become separated here on earth by death, and when a few more years have rolled over the heads of some of us remaining, that we, if we have been faithful Christians “unto death” (**Revelation 2:10**), shall meet again in heaven. This will be our eternal home. There we will dwell in the presence of our heavenly Father forever. Death will never knock on the door of those mansions. In that land there will not be a single grave or a funeral service.

Aged parents rejoice very much when on special days, like birthdays or holidays, they have their children back home for visits. There is almost always a son or daughter absent, absent from the country, or perhaps absent from the world. But how our Heavenly Father, who created the earthly home, will rejoice in that day in heaven, the eternal home of the soul, when He and all His faithful children are with Him in glory! How glad parents, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives and cousins will be to meet again after a long separation. That will really be a great “family reunion.” Perhaps a score or two years ago they parted at the grave. Now they meet again, never to be separated. May the circle be unbroken.

Jesus is now preparing a place for us. He said to His disciples, “*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*” (**John 14:3**). Home! “O, think of the home over there.” No sorrow, no crying, no tears, no death. Home sweet home! Beautiful home! Glorious home! Home with each other! Home with the angels! Home with God and Christ, our dear Savior, Home! Through the rich grace of our Lord and by our obedience to His will, may we all reach our heavenly home. (**Revelation 22:14**).

# DYING WEDDING VOWS

By Joe R. Price

Remember when “honor and obey” was a standard part of wedding vows? Then, the feminist movement said, “No way will I vow to obey my husband!” Today, you rarely hear a couple using this worthy vow to recognize and accept the roles and relationships God established in marriage (**Genesis 2:22-24; 3:16; Ephesians 5:22-24; I Peter 3:17**).

Now, “till death do us part” is also being rejected. More and more couples are opting for such preemptive phrases as “for as long as our love shall last,” “until our time together is over,” and “for as long as our marriage shall serve the greater good” (“Till Death Do Us Part” Is Dying Out, Jennifer D’Angelo, FoxNews.com, July 22, 2005). The rationale offered is, “Don’t make a promise you can’t keep.”

The same article noted that actor Brad Pitt considers his marriage to Jennifer Aniston a “total success” for having lasted five years. Rationalization does not change reality; after five years, their marriage ended in failure, not success.

When a husband and wife do not honor marriage for what God intends it to be – a life long union – they lay the foundation for marital failure. Add to that a distorted and selfish definition of love, and you have a recipe for trouble (**Hebrews 13:4; Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 13:4-8; Ephesians 5:25-31; Titus 2:4**). To vow “as long as love shall last” implies the person has no say in the matter; that somehow love decides when “it” will leave a marriage. No, love is a conscious decision of the heart that acts toward its object in good ways (in this case, the husband towards the wife, and vice versa). If love does not last it is because one or both parties decided to no longer love the other.

We should also note that wedding vows mean something; they are solemn commitments to bind oneself to another and to fulfill the obligations of a husband or wife. One such obligation is to honor the permanency of marriage. When marriage is not viewed as “till death do us part” it becomes increasingly easy to end it rather than solving the problem (with love). Vows must not be lightly made nor conveniently broken (**Proverbs 20:25; Ecclesiastes 5:4-5**).

God says marriage is “Till death do us part” regardless of the changing attitudes toward it (**Matthew 19:4-6; Malachi 2:14-16**).