



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 10, 2018

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:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY FRIEND

I have a good friend. He doesn't drink alcohol, thus has never been involved in any alcohol-related crimes or embarrassments. He doesn't destroy his mind through the use of illicit drugs. I've never once heard my friend gossip or tell a single lie. He never wastes his time in night clubs, casinos, or questionable establishments. I can't recall ever hearing him speak with profanity or vulgarity. And he has never cheated a soul in business.

Many people would call my friend a "good Christian." Yet you need to know that I have just described my dog, Patches!

We need to learn what being a Christian is all about; that being a Christian involves more than merely not doing evil. Being a Christian concerns actually doing good, fully submitting to Christ and living by faith.

Christ taught, *"If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me"* (**Luke 9:23**). Complete and total submission to Christ is essential if we would be called by His name. Like the brethren of Smyrna, all of us in Christ are expected to *"be faithful until death"* (**Revelation 2:10**).

The world holds many good and honest souls who are not maliciously engaged in the blackest of evils. Many of these good, moral citizens are our neighbors, our friends, our relatives. They may, in some cases, be more moral than some of the church's more nominal members.

But they should not, by virtue of their upstanding lifestyles, be confused with "good Christians." They may refrain from wrong; they may even be involved in promoting much that is right. But outside of Christ they cannot be considered Christians.

Not until one comes to Christ and obeys the gospel is one a Christian. No one can live a pure enough life to save himself, and there is still no other name to save us but the name of Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:12**).

Remember, there is a world of difference between my dog and a "good Christian."

Dalton Key

WORTH THE TROUBLE

President James A. Garfield was known for being a religious man and served as a minister and an elder of the church before becoming President of the United States. There are a lot of reported quotes in regard to his religion. He is reported to have said, "I resign the highest office in the land to become President of the United States." This was in regards to leaving his duties as elder of the church. He also supposedly told members of his cabinet that he could not make an urgent meeting that was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning because he had an engagement with the Lord to meet Him in His house at His table at 10:00 a.m. and he was going to be there.

Garfield's religion was well known and it has also been reported that the people would try to figure out if he would be at a particular service in order to meet him. On one occasion, he supposedly told a person who inquired about such that if he was not at Sunday services that one far greater than he would be there every week.

Whether or not that statement is fact or legend, I cannot completely affirm. However, it speaks volumes of truth about our priorities. While many congregations struggle to fill half their seats on Sunday mornings, college sporting events are regularly sold out. People will use their vacation time, travel great distances, and spend huge amounts of money to attend a Superbowl, the World Series or the NBA playoffs. Yet, with a congregation of God's people in their backyard they can hardly muster the strength to get out of bed on Sunday morning to offer their gratitude to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I think that paints a pretty clear picture of the majority in this country.

Do not allow me to cause you to think this is anything new. Jesus used a similar illustration in regards to the generation living in His day. He said, "*The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here*" (**Matthew 12:42**). They had the opportunity to sit at the feet and listen to the Son of God, but instead He was rejected, persecuted and crucified. So to be honest things have not really changed that much.

We may not be able to physically sit at the feet of Jesus in bodily form, but I believe that He is always present with His people. We may not be able to hear His voice with our ears, but if we listen with our hearts His words are still available in our Bibles. Wonder why we do not get more excited about coming to services or reading our Bible? To say with our mouth that it is not worth the trouble may sound like blasphemy, but people say it with their actions every week.

Jesus thought we were worth the trouble when He gave up heaven to take the form of a bondservant. He thought we were worth it when He suffered death on the cross (**Philippians 2:6-8**). He went to a lot of trouble to keep us from losing our souls. We were worth it to Him (**Hebrews 12:2**). What about you? Is your eternal soul worth the trouble of obedience to God?

Doug Tooley