



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

June 11, 2017

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:**

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:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## **THE BODY WORKS TOGETHER** **(Ephesians 4:16)**

The church at Ephesus was a young congregation. God, through Paul, reminded them to function as He designed so that the church might grow. This meant that each member needed to recognize his specific role and use her God given ability to benefit the whole body.

Paul portrays the church as a physical body so the Ephesians might understand their duty. First, the church is a body *“joined and knit together”* like a human body is linked by vessels, muscles, joints, and ligaments. Each part is intertwined and dependent on the other. His church is bound together by love, service, faith and Jesus’ blood. Another phrase describes the congregation working efficiently and reaching its fullest capacity *“according to the effective working by which every part does its share.”* Each member contributes to the building up of the body. When the church at Ephesus fulfilled God’s plan the natural course of growth would take place.

What a valuable lesson for us. All of us need to be useful in the congregation. Sometimes we want members who have five talents, but all we need is for everyone to do their own part. We must use what God has given us, not what we wish we had or what others have. We need not focus on doing everything but on those things in keeping with our abilities.

Also, we need to understand that we are interlocked with each other. The devil will try to make us think, “You’re just one,” but we are truly one among many. Everyone is important and each contributes to the overall good of the church. We serve shoulder to shoulder in our efforts to build up His body. Mutual labor provides the motivation to be unified and results in congregational growth.

**We must ask ourselves:**

Are we doing our part for the benefit of His church?

Are we carrying out our responsibility to one another?

Do we understand our function in the Lord’s body?

Are we humbly serving others for the overall good of the church and His glory?

**Dan Murphy**

# A WEEKLY OBSERVANCE?

By Darwin Hunter

Our religious friends often wonder about our weekly observance of the Lord's Supper. Having participated in the Supper only occasionally in denominational churches (i.e. special occasions, supposed "holy days," once a month, etc.), they cannot conceive of partaking every Sunday. They wonder why we do so every Sunday.

The answer is found in the Scriptures. The Lord Himself taught the disciples that they would eat the memorial Supper in "*My Father's kingdom*" (**Matthew 26:29**). Most think of Heaven when they read that phrase, but clearly it is a reference to the church which Jesus built and would serve as the Head (**Matthew 16:18-19; Colossians 1:18**). This is made clear from the fact that the "kingdom" is the receptacle of those who have "*been delivered from the power of darkness*" (or those saved **Colossians 1:13**). The saved are therefore in the kingdom. And, we know from **Acts 2:47** that those who were being saved were added to the church. So, the saved are in the church, or kingdom.

Secondly, it is also clear that members of the church were taught by the apostles to engage in the observance of the Lord's Supper in their church assemblies. Paul wrote to Corinth to correct abuses in their observance, warning them that to partake "*in an unworthy manner*" was to eat and drink "*judgment*" to their souls (**I Corinthians 11:27-29**). In his remarks, Paul quotes from the Lord's own teaching about eating the unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine in His memory (**I Corinthians 11:23-25; Matthew 26:26**).

Thirdly, in his discussion of the Lord's Supper, Paul used the phrase "*as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup...*" it sounds like it would be oft-done in the church. But, how often? In **Acts 20:7**, Paul met with the church at Troas, after waiting several days, so that he could join them in partaking of the Supper on the first day of the week in their worship assembly. **Acts 20:7** says, "*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*" The only reference we have to engaging in the eating of the Supper was on the first day of the week in the worship assembly of the church. We also know the early church met every Sunday and gave of their means (**I Corinthians 16:1-2**). So, the evidence is clear that they met on Sundays "*to break bread*" (eat the Supper), and to give into the common treasury, and to hear the Word preached. Not one word is said anywhere in the New Testament about observance at any other time like denominations do today; in funerals, in weddings, on special holiday commemorations (which are nowhere taught or sanctioned in the new covenant), or once a month or once a quarter. These are merely human inventions. Some object that the meaning will be lost if it is done every week, yet they give every week, and meet every week, without their insistence that doing something so often makes it routine and meaningless. Most do not object to being told "I love you" every day by a husband or wife!

So, we partake as a weekly observance as the Lord taught us to do in **Acts 20:7**.