



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 1, 2014

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
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 am

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

MAKING MELODY IN OUR HEARTS TO THE LORD

Sing, sang, sung or singing – when it comes to worshipping God through it, it's a verb no matter how you say it. Worship in song is not meant to be entertainment any more than any prayer, preaching or partaking of communion. It's meant to have a purpose, a direction and a result: from us to God. But before it can reach its goal it has to have a starting place – namely our heart!

There is also an aspect of singing in worship that is meant to capture, curtail and correct the wandering hearts of our brothers and sisters much like preaching, but even that aspect must begin and end with the Lord in our heart (**Colossians 3:16**). The heart strings of our brethren cannot be pulled unless we are already playing ours (**Ephesians 5:19**). And twiddling our thumbs during the time that we should be singing does not constitute either.

Our "talent" or the lack thereof to the ears of our neighbor does not do away with the admonishment or the desire of the Lord to hear us sing to Him. Have you ever thought about how the one who could solely listen to the voices of angels finds great delight in us singing to Him?

Making melody in our hearts to the Lord will happen when He's the Lord of our heart, for we cannot have one without the other.

Eugene Adkins

WHO BUILT THE CHURCH?

A question that deserves to be asked is, "Who built the church?" It needs to be asked and answered in many different settings. When people question some aspect of the church's teaching, or its organizational structure, or its pattern of worship, I find myself wanting to ask, "Well, who built the church anyway?"

We know the answer – the Lord Himself. He said, "*I will build My church*" (**Matthew 16:18**). We have often rightly pointed out that He used the personal pronoun, "*My*," to indicate ownership. The right language to use of the church of the Bible is to call it the Lord's church or the "church of Christ" (**Romans 16:16**). Jesus promised to build a single entity belonging to Him, composed of those whom He would save. He purchased that spiritual body by His blood (**Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25**). He alone paid the purchase price for it. He is the church's Founder (**Matthew 16:18**), its Foundation (**I Corinthians 3:11**), its Head (**Colossians 1:18**), and its Savior (**Ephesians 5:23**).

When men want to change the church, the question should be asked, "Who built the church anyway?" Since Christ alone built and paid for the church, what right do men have to alter what He built? Do you allow someone to come into your home and start rearranging the furniture or changing the color schemes without your express authorization? No, you would toss someone out who tried it!

Can someone just come into your home and start changing the rules of your house? You have not allowed drunkenness and cursing in your home, but a stranger comes in and says, "These things will now be allowed." What would you do about it?

Yet, many today, some within the church and all the denominations, take it upon themselves to change the Lord's plan for the church. They decide you can just "believe only" into church membership instead of being baptized into the body (**I Corinthians 12:13; Mark 16:15-16**). They change the frequency of the Lord's Supper to semiannual, instead of weekly (**Acts 20:7**). They alter music of the church from congregational vocal praise to choirs and solos accompanied by bands (**Colossians 3:16**). They decide the Lord's teachings are unpopular so they change their teaching on morality or marriage and divorce, or just decide NOT to preach it (**Matthew 19:9**).

When men want to change the "*house of God*" (**I Timothy 3:15**) to suit themselves or our culture, we should ask, "Who built the church anyway?" We should react just like we would if they started trying to change our own homes without authority to do so. We should challenge them, and resist their unwarranted changes!

Darwin Hunter

