



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 22, 2014

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

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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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

I NEVER INTENDED TO QUIT!

A man who had not attended one service of the church in four years told me he had never thought of quitting the church. I reminded him that he had (1) Withdrawn his presence from the service; (2) Refused to give his moral support to the activities of the congregation; (3) Withdrawn his financial support, for he had not given one dime to help carry on the Lord's work.

Then I asked "What else would you have to do in order to "quit" the church? As the truth started to dawn upon him, his expression reflected sober thoughts. He replied, "Why, Bro. Nichols, I've already quit, haven't I? Well, I surely didn't mean to! And I don't know when I did it. I'm coming back." He did too. At the next service, he was restored and three years later, he was still faithful.

Dear reader, how about you? Have you quit the Lord and His church without resolving to do so? Perhaps no one deliberately decides to quit, but many carelessly drift into backsliding. If you quit attending services, quit boosting the program of activities planned by the elders and quit giving as God has prospered you to enable the congregation to meet its budget, you need to be restored.

People rarely plan to leave the Lord. Instead of it being a conscious decision, it usually happens through inattention to Bible study, to prayer, to worship, to working in the Lord's church, etc. You may have already quit the church and you didn't even realize it. It was with this possibility in mind that the writer of Hebrews wrote, *"Therefore, we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it."* **(Hebrews 2:1).**

Gus Nichols (1892-1975)
Bulletin Digest

THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD

Blood is something that repulses a lot of folks. Yet it is necessary part of the human anatomy. Often it is associated with death but in reality it should be partnered with life. Certainly without blood there is death. The human body cannot function normally if the body is low on blood. In this condition the body becomes fatigued and weak, the heart becomes strained and the immune system becomes vulnerable to disease and infection. It is no surprise that the Bible teaches, “*For the life of the flesh is in the blood.*” (**Leviticus 17:11**). This very reason is given by God to explain why the blood of animals must not be drunk or eaten, (**Leviticus 3:17; 7:26-27**).

Blood is significant to the Christian because it signifies atonement. In the Old Testament, every year the high priest made atonement of blood upon the Ark of the Covenant. “*And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonement once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD*” (**Exodus 30:10**). “*And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.*” (**Hebrews 9:22**). The writer of Hebrews tells us that in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sin every year, (**10:3**). It goes on to read, “*For, it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*” (**Hebrews 10:4**). If Israel remained faithful to Jehovah, then yearly, the priests would faithfully execute sacrifices though no animal blood could take away sins (**Hebrews 10:11**). These acts of the priests signified that something better lay ahead. Animal sacrifices were a mere type of the sacrifice God had prepared in His scheme of redemption, (**Hebrews 10:1**). The writer of Hebrews explains, “*For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*” (**Hebrews 9:13-14**).

Atonement is perfected in the blood of Christ. As Christians we must constantly be aware of becoming deprived of Christ’s blood. It is easy for the cares of this world to lead us astray, leaving us weak and vulnerable to the diseases of the soul. Every Lord’s Day we ingest the life-blood of Christ (**I Corinthians 11:23-28**), a “spiritual transfusion” from partaking of communion of Christ.

Terry Jackson