



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

June 25, 2017

P.O. Box 416  
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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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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## WHY DID THEY LEAVE THE CHURCH?

Flavil Yeakley, Jr. wrote a book entitled “Why They Left: Listening to Those Who Have Left Churches of Christ.” Yeakley does a good job compiling his findings. He digs deep into various reasons as to why people have left the church literally and figuratively. He explores doctrinal differences, neglect, instrumental music issues, the role of women, divorce-marriage-remarriage along with a host of other reasons why people leave the Lord’s church.

While the reasons listed in Yeakley’s book are centered on people refusing to change their life and be in a right relationship with God, many of the reasons are founded in poor relationships and the inability of the church to communicate with those on the “fringe.” Understanding who we are and how we treat each other may help reverse this trend.

We are a common family. **I Timothy 3:15** says, “*But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*” We should expect harsh words and mistreatment from the world but not from each other. We are a family!

We are partners in the work of Christ. **Philippians 1:5** says, “*For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now.*” Paul acknowledges the teamwork that exists between him and those at Philippi from day one. We too are on the same team with the same mission.

We are fused together by the Gospel. **I Corinthians 3:9** says, “*For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.*” We are knitted together as one chord and not frayed like loose ends.

May we do our best to keep from having to ask, “Why did they leave the Church?”

**Allen Jones**

# WHAT CAN I DO?

There is a disinterest in spiritual matters within our country. People do not attach an importance to morality like they did in the past. Our nation cannot be described as a “Christian” nation as people were in a habit of doing in days gone by. In view of these matters let me make five observations that the Christian would do well to keep in mind.

**First, God remains in control.** I know it often does not seem like it. Sometimes it seems more like Satan is the one who’s running the universe. But the Creator and Sustainer of the universe still reigns from heaven. Ultimately, he will be honored and glorified whereas sinful mankind will be rendered their due. God will have the final say.

**Second, remember that one of the apostles said, “The whole world lies in wickedness” (I John 5:19).** This statement was true some two thousand years ago and it remains an accurate assessment for the world today. The very reason Jesus died on the cross was to “*deliver us from this present evil world*” (Galatians 1:4). When I hear about all the ungodliness going on in society today I often say to myself, “Yep, it is just as God said it would be!”

**Third, God respects free, moral agency.** By this I mean that God created humans as free to make choices, both good and bad. God will allow people to reject Him and live wicked lives. God is not going to force anyone to serve and obey Him. This must be a voluntary decision on the part of the person. As a result the masses often choose to do wrong. This is why evil exists within our society.

**Fourth, the wicked will be held accountable.** There will be a reckoning. All of the ungodliness that characterizes our society will be actions that God condemns on the Day of Judgment. God is holy. He is just. He cannot abide the sinful actions of those who ignore and reject Him. These folks will eventually become recipients of Divine wrath. The Bible says so (Colossians 3:5-7).

**Fifth, the godly must remain faithful and true no matter what happens.** In the book of Revelation the term “*overcame*” is used seventeen times to relate that God and his people will ultimately be victorious over Satan and his evil influences. So what must the child of God do? Answer: “*Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of Life*” (Revelation 2:10).

**Stephen Wiggins**