



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

June 5, 2016

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:**

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

**Email:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## THE WILL OF THE FATHER

**Matthew 12:50** Jesus says to His disciples, *“For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.”*

Often in this world we are focused on doing our own will. Doing the things we think is best for our lives. We are focused on success, fame, money, friends, pleasure, and many other worldly things. Those things may seem important to us in the moment, but those are not the will of the Father in Heaven.

God’s will is not to have control over us. God’s will is to bless us (**John 10:10b**, *“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”*). We must do as our Heavenly Father has told us to do.

Following God’s will is more than just obeying the rules He has given us. In **John 14:15**, Jesus tells us, *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.”* Doing the will of the Father is the way we show Him that we love, honor, and respect Him. But that also means we have to be willing to do what He desires for us and not what we desire for ourselves.

Jesus gave us the example of how we are to do the will of the Father. Jesus lived a life following the will of God of Heaven. In **Matthew 26** when Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, He repeated the phrase *“not as I will, but as you will”* in His prayers to God. Jesus knew the importance of following the will of the Father. He gave us the ultimate example by following through with His sacrifice on the cross to fulfill the will of the Father.

God desires us to follow Him and leave behind the world. Following the will of the Father means cutting ties with the world. Obeying the Gospel and living a faithful life in accordance to His will is the utmost calling of a Christian. Are you following the will of the Father in Heaven?

**Nick Pace**

# THE BEGINNING AND END OF PRAYER

Prayer, in the end, is simply an intimate conversation between a child and their heavenly Father. There are always only two people represented in true prayer, you and God. Thus, while there are many kinds of prayer we could talk about, fundamental to them all is simply a conversation, a dialogue between an individual and God. Prayer, thus, begins and ends with God and this reality. I believe, is one of the reasons we do not always pray as we should. Because if we really knew and comprehended the nature and character of God, we would pray more!

**“Teach Us to Pray.”** As one considers the Model Prayer (**Luke 11:2-4**), he can't help but be impressed with the God-centered nature of the prayer. The Model Prayer contains six requests on the part of man. The first three are specifically directed to God and the last three focus on human needs that can only be satisfied by God. Jesus, thus, teaches us to remember always that in prayer, God is the focus, not ourselves. Why? Because the way we view God affects the way we live and the way we pray. Focusing on God's in our prayer helps us to filter out the frivolous and seek out His will and not our own. Thus, when praying, we need to remember that prayer begins and ends with God.

**Prayer Begins with God.** When we pray we are reminding ourselves that God is always with us. This is essential to prayer because the more we think about God's being with us, the more it changes the way we act, the way we think and the way we communicate with God in prayer. When we pray we are also responding to the love of God. As John proclaims (**I John 4:19**), before we ever reached out to God, God already loved us. Thus, in prayer, we are simply responding to that love by bringing our praise, needs and concerns to our heavenly Father. Finally, when we pray we are saying yes to God's invitation. God wants to be in constant communication with His children and prayer is the means by which He invites us to make this happen. It is important thus to understand that prayer doesn't start with us, it starts with God.

**Prayer Ends with God.** “The chief purpose of prayer is that God may be glorified in the answer” (R.A. Torrey). I recently heard some say that the purpose of prayer “is not so that we can get our will done in heaven it is so that we can get God's will done on earth.” Translation: We simply cannot expect God to fulfill requests in prayer that do nothing to advance His name and His cause in our lives and in the lives of others. The difference between having confidence in our prayers and not is found in the motivation behind them. Whose will are we really trying to get done?

Humans have a tendency to be self-centered and self-seeking and such is often reflected in our prayers. So before you pray to God, here is the question you need to ask: What is in my prayers for God? What, if my prayer were granted, would bring glory and honor to God's name and lead to the fulfillment of His will? Prayer was never meant to be a laundry list of our personal and often selfish wants. God created prayer for the purpose of communing with His children and so that He might be glorified in the answer. Prayer begins and ends with God!

**Brian Mitchell**