



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 5, 2022

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

Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Dale Barger

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Sending Messages Through Worship

Long before e-mail and long before texts, people were sending messages. Solomon sent a message to Hiram, asking him to provide lumber for the building of the temple (**1 Kings 5**). Hiram answered with his own message, *“I will do all you desire concerning the cedar and cypress logs”* (**1 Kings 5:8**). John wrote about the message that came from God and had been declared to others: *“. . . God is light and in Him is no darkness at all”* (**1 John 1:5**). Later, he reminded readers of another message: *“. . . we should love one another”* (**1 John 3:11**).

Some messages are important. Take for example the messages we send when we engage correctly in worship. Think about four of these:

The Message to God. We send a message of respect. *“Worship”* literally means *“to fall on the ground in front of.”* We figuratively fall at God’s feet in recognition of His majesty. That respect is shown by doing exactly what God has shown He wants from us. Our message to God is, *“We love You.”* We offer praise and adoration because of that love. Sadly, we send the wrong message when our singing is half-hearted and our minds are occupied by things other than worship.

The Message to the World. Our message is that it is right to worship God, no matter what others do. When we take the Lord’s Supper we tell the world that we believe in His death and its benefit to us. We tell the world we will do it until He comes again.

The Message to Each Other. The message is, *“We want to build up each other.”* We accept Paul’s message in **1 Cor. 14:26**, *“Let all things be done for edification.”* We gladly sing, *“Bind us together, Lord. . .”* And, we mean it!

The Message to Ourselves. We affirm, *“This is where I ought to be. This is where I need to be. This is where I want to be.”* Our worship tells us, *“This will help me face the challenges ahead and will get me closer to Heaven.”*

Let’s be sure the messages we send are the right ones.

Allen Hahn
Graeber Road church of Christ
Rosenberg, TX

Can I Borrow Your Rope?

A farmer came and asked his neighbor if he could borrow his rope. The neighbor said,

“No, I can’t let you borrow it.”

“Why not,” he replied.

“Because I’m using it to tie up my milk.”

“But you can’t tie up milk with a rope.”

“I know, but when you don’t want to do something, one excuse is as good as another.”

As a preacher, I often hear excuses from people for why they don’t want to do something, and very often they fall in the category of *“tying up milk.”* I had a teacher in high school who really stressed to us that there is a big difference between an excuse and a reason. If you came into his class and said, *“My excuse for being late is...”* or *“My excuse for not having my homework done is...”* he would say, *“I don’t want an excuse, I want a reason!”*

Have you been planning to get back in church, read your Bible more, or be baptized? Have you been planning to start coming on Sunday nights or Wednesday nights? Have you been planning to volunteer to teach a class, work with VBS or do something else you should do? Do you have a reason, or an excuse for not doing what you should do?

Jesus said, *“If ye love me, keep my commandments”* (**John 14:15**). He puts it pretty plainly doesn’t He? There it is in black and white. You may make all the excuses you want to, but if you are not obeying the Lord, you don’t love Him. Is it time to take some action?

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (**Luke 6:46-49**).

Bob Prichard
Hillview church of Christ
Nashville, TN