



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 12, 2023

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

J. Edgar Hoover and the Church of Christ

In a recent gospel meeting, this writer was privileged to meet a dentist and his wife who informed him of an inquiry they had made of the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation many decades ago. This couple was very active in a mainline denominational church when they began to notice the increasingly pronounced move toward socialism, especially in the directives and guidelines sent down from the church's headquarters.

Having become disenchanted by the modernistic, anti- American, pro-socialistic thrusts of their denomination and by the National Council of Churches, of which their church was a member and major supporter, they wrote Director J. Edgar Hoover, F.B.I., Washington, D.C., asking, "*Which church in America, if any, is likely to be the least infiltrated and permeated by such unpatriotic influences?*"

Mr. Hoover promptly responded by letter, saying that since the churches of Christ are completely autonomous— possessing no organization larger than the local church, thus no hierarchy to send directives down to the local congregation—there would be little likelihood of more than one or a few congregations ever coming under such influence.

The dentist and his wife investigated the undenominational church of Christ, against which they had earlier been quite prejudiced. They came to appreciate the restoration principle (i.e., the return to the pure teaching of the New Testament and thereby restoring the primitive church, which Christ built nearly two thousand years ago) and obeyed the gospel plan of salvation, as set forth in the Acts of Apostles.

Director Hoover's insight into the organization of the church of Christ will always be appreciated by these fine Christians and by their children.

Curtis Cates
1941-2013

The Church is Important

I wonder if the church is as important to us today as it was to the Christians in the first century. There's an old saying that states something like: "*Don't let the urgent overtake the important.*" There are a lot of urgent matters in the world today, but we must not let them crowd out the importance of the church. Let's use the book of Ephesians to prove this point.

The Church is Important Because of the Father's Purpose (Eph. 3:8-11). In this section we can clearly see that God had the church in mind all along! The church is not an afterthought, a plan B, or a substitute as some claim. It is not by the will of man or by some accident that the church exists. God had the church planned from eternity. He is the mastermind behind the true and wonderful church (**Eph. 3:14-15**). That makes it very important indeed.

The Church is Important Because of the Son's Purchase (Eph. 5:25-27). Christ's sacrifice shows the value God places on the church. Would you be willing to give your life for something of unimportance? Of course not, and neither was Jesus! It is sad to hear some people say, "*Give me Christ, but not the church.*" That's like saying, "*Give me the head, but not the body.*" The church is the body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**). You can't separate Christ and the church. The church cost Jesus His blood. Because of that, it should be extremely important to us.

The Church is Important Because of the Spirit's Presence (Eph. 2:19-22). The church is the temple of God. In Old Testament times, God's Spirit dwelt in the tabernacle and later the temple. But now the church is the temple of God, and the Spirit still dwells in it. Like the temple of old, in the church, where the Spirit lives, God is worshiped and given glory (**Eph. 3:21**). This makes the church a matter of great importance.

Without a doubt, the church is important to God. If the church really is that important to Him, then that would make proper association and involvement within it important, as well. And, without a doubt, it is. Is the church important to you? Are you an active member of it?

Edd Sterchi
Broadway church of Christ
Campbellsville, KY