



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 15, 2015

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

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

God expects (demands) His faithful followers to worship Him. The Scriptures are emphatic in the faithful child of God reflecting their love and loyalty by coming together with the saints, to worship their Heavenly Father, on the first day of the week.

While attendance at worship services is NOT the only measuring stick of ones spirituality, it certainly is one spiritual barometer. In **Hebrews 10:25** we read, *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”* The thought immediately expressed after this admonition is: *“For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins” (vs. 26)*. Can there be any doubt what the inspired writer is stating? Don't forsake! If you do, you sin willfully!

In **I Corinthians 16:1-2** we note the disciples were to give as they assembled on the first day of the week. Yes, that was every first day – every Sunday.

The church of the first century “came together” to break bread (**Lord's Supper, Acts 20:7**), whole church, to worship (**I Corinthians 11:18; 14:23, 26**). Note also **Matthew 18:20**: *“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”* The fact is: Christians have an appointment with the Lord on the first day of the week, on every first day of the week.

By your attendance you show: 1. your love for the Lord (**John 14:15**), with all your mind, body, soul and strength (**Mark 12:30**); 2. Your desire to become stronger (**I Peter 2:2-3**); 3. Your faith in God (**James 2:18**); 4. A desire to grow spiritually (**II Peter 1:5ff**); 5. Concern to refrain from falling away (**II Peter 2:20-22**); 6. Your light shining for the Lord (**Matthew 5:16**); 7. The example of first century Christians in your life today; 8. An excellent example for others to follow (**I Corinthians 11:1; Proverbs 22:6**); 9. The great benefit from treasured fellowship with the followers of God (**Acts 2:38-47**); 10. Your refusal to serve Satan and that you are not his disciple (**James 4:7**); 11. You are seeking the Lord first (**Matthew 6:33**); 12. You are pressing toward the mark of the prize (**Philippians 3:13-14**).

Question: Under what circumstance would a faithful child of God ever NOT WANT to assemble with the saints of God?

Paul Sain

ON DEMAND

Several factors have led to a trend in recent years concerning television viewing. One of those factors is the availability of digital recording. With digital video recording (DVR), viewers can record and store multiple programs for later playback. They can then recall the program on demand. That is simply to say that they can watch it when they want to, no sooner, no later. Some of the same programs can also be watched on devices other than televisions, such as cell phones, tablets and laptop computers. The common denominator of all of these things is the idea of “on demand.”

As is the case with so many trends, this concept of on demand seems to have crept into the spiritual thinking of many. It even appears to be a motivating factor within the church. For example, some people used to recognize that their lifestyle was incompatible with the Gospel of Christ. They would either never become Christians, or they would walk away, choosing to follow sin rather than try to remain among those attempting to follow God. Now, it appears that some are willing to defy the precepts of Scripture and demand that the church allow that defiance.

It appears that others, following procedures that interpret the Bible more loosely in regard to worship and those who lead in worship, demand that the church follow suit. This change in interpretation closely follows a general lack of respect for authority and more specifically, biblical authority. As a result, we see congregations either announce new directions (thus forcing some to leave because of desire to remain faithful to God) or to announce contemporary services (in addition to traditional services) to appease those who demand change (thus dividing the body in that place).

Finally, it seems that there is a desire within the church to do whatever it takes to retrieve those who have fallen away. By this I do not refer to efforts to bring them to repentance, but rather to compromise that would allow them to return without repentance. It may take the form of apologizing on behalf of past generations of leaders for sinful attitudes. Individual leaders are responsible for their behavior and will stand accountable to God for it (**Hebrews 13:17**). If someone decides they are no longer going to follow the Lord, even because of the sin of someone else, they are still guilty of sin before God (**Ezekiel 18:20**). It may also take the form of agreeing to a series of demands on the part of the ones who want to return. Such demands contradict the spirit of godly remorse and repentance (**II Corinthians 7:10; James 5:19-20**).

Paul warned Timothy: *“For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears, will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions”* (**II Timothy 4:3 ESV**). May we humble ourselves (**James 4:10**) so that we do not demand our own way in following the one who made us and will judge us.

Lance Cordle