



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

March 19, 2017

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:**

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:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## THE WAY TO HEAVEN

Most people when asked will say and honestly believe that they are going to heaven, but it is important to be absolutely sure!

There is a way that seems to be right but is not:

*“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 16:25).*

*“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto the counsel is wise” (Proverbs 12:15).*

*“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes, but the Lord weigheth the spirits” (Proverbs 16:2).*

*“I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth” (Acts 26:9).*

There are many false ways:

**Universalism is the wrong way:** *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the Way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat” (Matthew 7:13-14).*

**Calvinism is the wrong way:** *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall” (II Peter 1:10).*

**Denominationalism is the wrong way:** *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).*

There is only one way to Heaven.

**Christ is the only way:** *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).*

**His word tells us how to go to Heaven:** *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath One that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48; note also, Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-4).*

**He must obey:** *“His Lord saith unto him, ‘well done, good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord” (Matthew 25:21).*

**Randy Kea**

# WHO DESERVES TO BE HELPED?

This can be a very difficult question. It is one that preachers and church leaders are faced with on a regular basis. From one stand point it is good for a congregation to be known for helping people, but on the other hand it can sometimes cause problems. There are those who truly need help who swallow their pride and come to you, and there are those who hear of your good deeds and see you as another spot on their list.

You see there are those who make a profession out of panhandling churches and other organizations. They may be perfectly capable of working but do not, or they may work and they just see your hand out as a way of padding their pockets. These sad characters are the ones that cause headaches for those giving and those truly in need.

A preacher friend of mine, whose dad was also a preacher, tells a story of an encounter that his father had. A man stopped by his father's congregation asking for help and promising that when he got paid at his new job, he would return the money. It was almost a year later when the man came back with the same story. The preacher said, "You may not remember me, but I remember you. You came here with the same story last year." Believe it or not almost a year to the day the man came back again. When the preacher opened his door the man just turned and walked away. I suppose he thought the preacher would be gone by then.

Another example is with the yearly food box distribution that we do here at our congregation. Every year just before Thanksgiving and Christmas, we give out food boxes that include a canned ham. These boxes are bought with the contribution of our members. We do not ask for any outside help. The only stipulation for receiving one is that you be present and have a form of picture identification. We simply hope that only those who need them will come. However, sometimes you see people driving nice vehicles and you wonder if they really need help. That is when I remind myself that I do not know.

I cannot look at a person or their vehicle and determine if they deserve to be helped or not. Maybe they are picking up the box for someone who could not come, or maybe they just lost their job, and they are really stretched thin by the holidays. You see, I just do not know.

One thing that I remind myself of is that we have a God that was willing to give to those that really did not deserve it. You know we are all sinners. Did we deserve to have our debt paid by a righteous man that was the Son of God? In my opinion we did not deserve it. However, God is full of grace and mercy. His grace gives us what we do not deserve, and His mercy keeps us from the punishment that we should receive. It is truly a wonderful thing.

Do not get me wrong, if you helped everyone that asked you could quickly shut the doors on your congregation, or find yourself broke and unable to pay your bills. What I am saying is that maybe every now and then it does not hurt to help someone that does not seem to deserve it. Maybe your actions of love will open a door to bring that person to Christ.

**Doug Tooley,  
Wartburg church of Christ**

