



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

March 20, 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

## People Like To Be Asked

Some time ago I read a story in which Tip O'Neill, former Speaker of the House, was once told by his neighbor, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Brien, "*Tom, I'm going to vote for you tomorrow even though you didn't ask me to.*"

This shocked Tip. He said, "*I've lived across the street from you for eighteen years. I cut your grass in the summer, I shovel your walk in the winter. I haul out your ashes. I didn't think I had to ask for your vote.*"

"Tom," she replied, "*let me tell you something: People like to be asked.*"

After that experience Tip O'Neill even started asking his wife, Millie. Every election day as they left for the polls he would say, "*Honey, I'd like to ask for your vote.*" "Tom," she'd reply, "*I'll give you every consideration.*"

That little story took me back over fifty years. C. E. McGaughey had come to town to preach in a gospel meeting where I was the local, but inexperienced preacher. I showed him around the town and introduced him everywhere. There wasn't a person we met that he didn't invite to attend the services.

In our visits to various homes he would inquire, "*Are you a Christian?*" If the answer was "*no,*" he would gently speak of how wonderful it is to be a Christian. He would talk about the blessings of receiving the forgiveness of all sins, and the joy to be found in following Christ. Before we left the house he would always ask, "*Wouldn't you like to be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins?*"

Before the week was over there had been sixty-seven baptisms, and countless homes had been changed for the better.

It makes me wonder. Maybe we are not doing enough asking these days.

**Ask some one to come to the Gospel Meeting this week.**

John Gipson  
via church of Christ  
Hooker, OK

# Why Do Some Attend the ‘Optional’ Worship Services and Bible Classes?

It has always been a struggle to get every member of the local church to attend all Bible classes and worship services. Yes, they will come to the A.M. worship service, but not to the other periods of Bible study and worship. When asked why, they will respond: “*Those services are optional. They are not commanded by God.*”

My question is: “*If these are optional services, why do some people choose to attend them?*”

Could it be their love for God?

Could it be their love for truth?

Could it be their love for worship?

Could it be their desire for Christian fellowship?

Could it be their level of Christian maturity?

Could it be their hunger for spiritual things?

Could it be their commitment to the local congregation?

Could it be their desire to set a good Christian example?

Could it be they long to grow in Christ?

Could it be additional worship and study keep them faithful?

Could it be they understand they are to be subject to the elders?

Could it be they want to be like the first century Christians?

Could it be they realize the need to sacrifice?

Could it be a combination of these things and more?

Could be!

Some Christians seem like they want to try to skim by when it comes to the final judgment. It is not about their heart, their faith, and their love for God. It is about doing just enough to get by. Their Christianity is not about a relationship with their Savior. Their Christianity is more about guilt, shame, and fear.

Personally, I love attending the “*optional*” things, including the various works of the church: VBS, gospel meetings, work days, clothing giveaways, men’s breakfasts, men’s days, etc. Why? I enjoy them because I realize the benefits I derive from participating in such works. I am the one blessed. Too, there is a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing that I have served my Lord by serving His church.

Yes, many believe that so many things the church does are optional. I also know some of my brethren who would say: “*These are not as optional as some brethren might think they are.*”

I am thankful that in most churches the majority of brethren are still interested in what some call “*the optional*” aspects of the church.

Victor Eskew  
Oceanside church of Christ  
Atlantic Beach, FL