



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 22, 2020

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
Larry Hill
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 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

A Walk Down Memory Lane

Bill drove into his hometown for one more chore. His mother's funeral had been a month earlier. His dad had passed away two years ago. Today, he had to sign final papers to sell his childhood home.

He arrived in town a little early, so he decided to take one last look at the house where he'd grown up. Inside, there were memories in every corner. He saw the doorframe where his dad had marked his growth each year. He stood in the kitchen where he had watched his mom bake cookies. He remembered the fun times as he and his parents would sit on the porch, drinking iced tea on a warm summer evening and greeting neighbors as they walked down the street in the front of the house.

After he locked up, Bill stepped off the porch and discovered something he hadn't thought about for a very long time. It was the little sidewalk that his dad poured. He saw a child's footprints. He remembered how his dad had lifted him and set him in the wet cement. His bare feet made an impression that had lasted all these years. Beside those prints, his dad had written: "may you never forget where these prints lead you to."

Bill looked up. When standing in those footprints, he faced his childhood church. Tears filled Bill's eyes. The only time he had been to church in years, was to attend his parents' funerals. He remembered walking with his parents to church. Memories of the lessons of the Savior came to mind.

The next Sunday, Bill returned to the Lord. He knew his parents were in heaven and he wanted to join them some day. *"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). Larry Fitzgerald

We Become What We Worship

Have you ever noticed the affect culture and trends have on our lives? Think about it. Doesn't almost every person you know own an iPhone or smart phone of some sort? Things like movies, sports, clothing, and music have great influence over people. But do you ever wonder why we're so heavily influenced by the culture around us? Well, it's simple—whatever you're consumed with, you're going to reflect in your life. In other words, we become what we worship.

If you look up synonyms for worship in your thesaurus, you come across words like revere, adoration and idolize. I want to spend a little time focusing on that last word idolize. When God gave the children of Israel the Ten Commandments, He started out the list by saying: *“You must not have any other god but Me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.”*

The fact is, in this day and age, everything around you is constantly clamoring for your undivided attention. The world is begging for your adoration. It's harder than ever to focus with all the distractions offered every moment of every day. But all those distractions are rooted in idolatry and self when they get you to take your eyes off of your heavenly Father and His great plan for your life.

Ask yourself these questions: “How much time do I spend flipping through magazines or googling the latest celebrity gossip? How important is it that I fit in, look the part or am successful? Do I measure my success based on the opinions of other people?” Now ask yourself this: “How much time do I spend reading the Word of God and allowing Him to speak to me? Do I respond to the things around me by first seeking God's wisdom?” Our aim should be to approach earthly things with a heavenly mindset. But as we all know, this can be very difficult.

So how do we guard ourselves from creating idols? I think **Matthew 6:33** (NKJV) says it best: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* So, before anything else, seek first the Lord!

Michael Meredith