



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 24, 2019

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
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 7:00 pm

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

A WINNING TEAM

In July, my son's 10-year-old All Star baseball team competed in a local tournament. They played well but were eliminated in the second-round. Between my son's games, I had the opportunity to watch the team that ultimately won the tournament. They were spectacular! There was no question that they were athletic, but athleticism alone didn't make them great. In fact, their players weren't any bigger or better than ours. What set this team apart from all the rest might surprise you.

They were well coached. The coaches knew their players (their weaknesses and strengths), and put them in the best position to succeed.

They were fundamentally sound.

They worked together as a team.

They overcame adversity: that is, they weren't easily rattled when the ball didn't bounce their way.

They were focused! They weren't looking into the stands or digging in the dirt. They were 100% into the game!

What makes a great congregation great? The answer to that question might surprise some. It's not necessarily a congregation's size, facility or contribution that makes it great. What sets a great congregation apart from an average one?

Great Leadership! Shepherds who know their flock and will put them in the best position to succeed (**Acts 10:28**).

Fundamentally sound! Great congregations know God's Word! They know how to rightly divide it (**II Timothy 2:15**)! They study and execute it daily!

They work together as one! They're not divided but united. When one is down, the others are there to pick them up (**Romans 12:15**).

They handle adversity positively. They're not easily discouraged when the going gets tough.

They're focused! They're not distracted by what's going on around them. They have work to do and the finish line to cross (**Matthew 6:33. Philippians 3:13-14**).

Anyone can be on the winning team, spiritually speaking! All that is required is faithful obedience (**Acts 2:37; II Timothy 4:7-8; Revelation 2:10**). And any congregation of the Lord's people can be GREAT if each member will do their part! I'm on the winning

team. What about you?

By Terry R. Townsend

THE BLESSING OF GIVING

In his last meeting with the elders of the Ephesian church, Paul encouraged them, *“to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’* This statement of Jesus is not found in the four Gospel accounts; it must have been one of the many good things that Jesus said and did, the record of which the world would not be able to contain (**John 21:25**). The early church was aware of this declaration from the Lord, and Paul was determined to cause the saints to remember it. Luke records it here in the book of Acts so that the church throughout the ages would remember it. We should not neglect it today.

It is more blessed to give than to receive because it causes us to have the proper attitude toward earthly possessions. Everything we possess actually belongs to the Lord. **Psalms 24:1** says, *“The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”* We are simply stewards entrusted with His possessions while we are here on earth. We will take none of it with us. **Ecclesiastes 5:15** says, *“As he came forth of his mother’s womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labor, which he may carry away in his hand.”* Those who cling to earthly riches are headed for sorrow: *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (**I Timothy 6:6-10**).

It is more blessed to give than to receive because God repays those who give. Peter asked the Lord in **Matthew 19:27**, *“Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee: what shall we have therefore?”* Jesus replied in **Matthew 19:29**, *“...every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”* God richly repays those who make sacrifices for Him. Paul revealed in **II Corinthians 9:6**, *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly: and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”* The farmer always receives more crop yield than the seed he places in the ground, otherwise there would be no purpose in farming. We should sow much seed and God will give us a bountiful harvest.

It is more blessed to give than to receive because God loves those who have a cheerful attitude of giving. **II Corinthians 9:7** simply declares, *“...God loveth a cheerful giver.”* To know that God loves what you are doing affords a peace that no amount of money can purchase.

Let us give of our time, talent, money, energy and anything else we may possess to the Lord. If we do this with the proper attitude we will certainly be blessed.

By Mark Day