



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

March 27, 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

## Finishing Well

Wouldn't you love to face eternity with confidence? You can!

*"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing" (2 Tim. 4:6-8).*

Paul knew a glorious welcome awaited him!

He knew he would hear, *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* (**Matt. 25:21**).

He knew his name would be acknowledged before the Father (**Matt. 10:32**).

He knew that God's grace was bigger than his sin.

He knew the mercy and love of the Lord was more powerful than his rebellion.

He knew it was not about how he started (persecuting Jesus and the Church—**Acts 9:4**), it was about how he finished.

The Good News of Jesus Christ: We are all sinners (**Rom. 3:23**), but Jesus died and rose again offering us hope (**1 Thess. 4:13-14; Eph. 2:12-13**).

When it comes to running the race of life (**1 Cor. 9:24**), it is not about how we start, it is about how we finish.

Bart Warren

South Green Street church of Christ  
Glasgow, KY

# On Perseverance and Giving Up

Everyone gets tired from time to time. Often tiredness leads to exhaustion. When exhaustion is full and there's still work to be done, it can lead to burnout. With burnout comes an increased distance from job or family responsibilities, negativity, cynicism, and an abiding feeling of needful change. The thought is that if I move, or change jobs, or drastically change immediate things in my life, I'll be renewed and no longer feel like giving up. Solomon would say, this "is vanity and striving after the wind" (**Eccl. 2:11**).

I believe more people are bordering on burnout than ever before. The toll of the last several strenuous years have left many with an emptiness and banality that they alone cannot grasp or manage. We've burned out in many cases. Yet, what God's word says to people like us is, "*don't give up! Keep going!*"

When faced with persecution and hardship for simply being Christians, many Jews who embraced Jesus at first found themselves longing for the "*easier*" and "*less wearisome*" path of Judaism. The Hebrews writer counsels them to NEVER consider giving up their hope and confidence obtained through Jesus Christ (**Heb. 10:35-39**). In chapter 12, he gives several practical things to look at when perseverance is hard:

**Look around (12:1a).** The witnesses of those who lived faithfully stand as encouragements of people who, by faithfulness, made it through their own times when they wanted to give up (reread **Heb. 11**).

**Look at yourself (12:1b).** There may be things you are carrying that are sinful that are tripping you up. There are also things that you're carrying that may not be sinful, but are weighing you down. Give those things up! What do I need to change to persevere (**2 Cor. 13:5**)?

**Look at Jesus (12:2-4).** Remember Jesus persevered when He was facing perhaps the most brutal way man has ever invented to kill another. He wanted to do anything but (**Matt. 26:39**). Yet, He persevered through the cross and became the example "*lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls*" (**12:3**).

**Look at the trial itself (12:5-12).** What you are facing and going through, God purposes to refine your character (**Jas. 1:2-4**). Stay faithful through the difficulty. Don't give up, don't give in! Remember God is with you!

I think Hebrews **12:12-13** ought to be written on our mirrors every morning. God who works through pain will bring healing if we stick it out! Don't give up! Keep going!

With Him, the best is yet to be!

Andy Baker  
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