



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

March 31, 2019

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
865-354-0855

**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:**

rockwdcc@gmail.com

**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## NO PAIN

July 16 of last year I was suddenly afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis. My hands hurt and were swollen grotesquely. It was hard to walk. For a time I was disoriented and afraid my career and usefulness were over. It still hurts to walk, but the pain is tolerable. Thanks to a good Lord, good doctors and good medicine, I am again functioning normally.

Through the years the idea of heaven gets “sweeter as the years go by.” More loved ones are there. Aches and pains of this fleshly existence are intensified. The prayer, “Lord, come quickly,” becomes a genuine desire, tempered only, as with Paul (**Philippians 1:21-26**), by the realization there is work to yet to be done and I might be able to accomplish some good for others.

I say that to give meaning to this: I get emotional when I read **Revelation 21:4**, “*neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore.*” And when I sing, “And then one day I’ll cross the river; I’ll fight life’s final war with pain; and then as death gives way to victory, I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know He lives!” And when I remember a prayer often repeated when I was young and a new Christian at Union Avenue Church in Memphis, “And, Lord, when our time comes to cross the chilly waters of death, give us a peaceful hour in which to cross, and a home safe on the other side.”

“No pain.” “Life’s final war with pain.” “A peaceful hour in which to cross.” Amen! Amen!

**Cecil May, Jr.**

# AM I GLAD TO BE IN GOD'S HOUSE?

Recently in our worship on Sunday evening, I listened to a prayer of a senior saint asking God to help us come to a time when our attendance was equal at all services. It's been a while since I heard such a prayer and desire expressed before the Father. Why is there such a disparity?

What is it that makes one assembly more appealing to some than others? Is there something missing (other than people) in some of our assemblies that makes them less of a draw for the saints?

Isn't it important for us to reflect "why do I go to some but not all of the services?" Is it a spiritual reason? Is it a stewardship thing? Is it that I feel that my needs are not being met? Did I worship, praise, pray, study, admonish, encourage, all that I needed to?

We all have busy lives. No one has a schedule less than crammed to maximum capacity. Yet, some folks still find time, energy, and desire to meet together for Bible study and worship every time the saints meet.

The writer of Hebrews told us to "*spur one another on to love and good works.*" He tells us to be careful not to grow derelict in meeting together. **(Hebrews 10:24-25)**. Paul reminds us twice, not to grow weary in doing good **(Galatians 6:9; II Thessalonians 3:13)**. Isaiah preached to an obstinate people who had lost their fervor for service and worship to God. God's words through Isaiah were stern and heartbreaking. God showed just how selfish Israel had become:

*"You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. You have not brought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities."* **(Isaiah 43:23-24 ESV)**.

We cannot say that everyone who worships four or five times per week at the church building is a spiritual giant. However, knowing that it is good to be in the house of the Lord, shouldn't I develop a desire to be there as much as I can? David showed a righteous attitude "*I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'*" **(Psalms 122:1 ESV)**.

I echo the prayer of that older brother; that we would all desire to be with the Lord more often. Let us find joy and desire to be in the Lord's presence.

*"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."* **(Psalms 84:10 ESV)**.

*"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple."* **(Psalms 27:4 ESV)**.

**By Joseph D. Chase**