



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

March 8, 2015

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  
Roger Carter  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Kirby Hinds

**Secretary:**

Susan Chandler

**Service Times:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study 10 am  
Worship Service 10:45 am  
Worship Service 6 pm

**Wednesday**

Bible Study 7:30 pm

**Monday**

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

**Email:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## IS LIFE FAIR?

Is life fair? Do we always have our needs met? It seems like in life we expect to be able to control every thing that happens to us. In a recent Oklahoma high school football game, the referees mistakenly erased a go-ahead touchdown because of an erroneous assessment of a penalty. The coach and the school district have stated, "It's not fair that these young people should be punished because of a mistake by the adult referees." They have even filed legal action in district court to try to force the game to be replayed.

Regardless of whether one believes that the football team was shortchanged or whether one believes "that's just the way the cookie crumbles," one should be able to see that this situation occurred because an adult coach did not have the self-control to stay off the field when the ball was live.

At the judgment scene presented in **Matthew 25**, there was a group of people who were told that they could not enter into heaven because they had not performed their duties. Their response, "It's not fair." (**Matthew 25:44-45**). *"Then they also will answer Him, saying 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'"*

Spiritually, we control our own destiny as we live our lives. What we do with our life matters. Many of life's circumstances I can't control. I can't control the actions of others, environmental factors such as the weather, or even some of the situations I find myself in. I can, however, control whether I feed and clothe the stranger, or whether I minister to the sick and those in prison. Control what you can and leave the rest to God.

**By Ken Hamilton**

# TRUE FORGIVENESS

**(Matthew 6:14-15)** *“For if you forgive men their trespasses your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* **(Luke 17:3-4)** *“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent’ you shall forgive him.”*

Often people will quote the first set of passages and thus conclude that forgiveness must be extended in a “blank check” fashion. The Lord is stating that you must forgive sin or trespass from others if you expect God to do the same for you. Question: Does God forgive you without you repenting and asking for forgiveness? No, He doesn't.

The second passage from **Luke**, tells us how forgiveness is obtained. There must be a cessation of the sin and a request for forgiveness; it's the same with God. Now, we do have the responsibility of trying to facilitate an opportunity for this to happen. **Matthew 18:15** tells us we must go to our brother if he has sinned against us. **Galatians 6:1-2** tells us to go and bear a brother up if he has sinned. We should, as God is, always be willing and ready to forgive. The problem is that some folks aren't worried about forgiveness and/or don't seek it. They don't want to stop the sins they are involved in and aren't too concerned about forgiveness. In that kind of state, God doesn't extend forgiveness. Forgiveness is a precious commodity in that Jesus Christ died so that we all might have it. All won't have it because they're not willing to accept the terms Jesus put on it. **Hebrews 5:9** tells us that He is the *“Author of eternal salvation.”* He has the right to put the terms on the reception of forgiveness.

That does put a duty upon those who have been sinned against. You want to forgive, and often you will have to make it happen by going to that person. If the person comes to you first, wonderful! If not, we are to go to them. If they won't respond, your hands are clean. Also, we never “write” that person off. It may be in the future that they have a change of heart. This is how God feels about us. **Acts 17:30** tells us that God wants all men to repent. Why? So He can forgive them. I hope you will think about this subject.

**Chris Moore**