



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

May 17, 2015

P.O. Box 416  
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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

## RESISTING THE DEVIL

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world” (I Peter 5:8-9).*

The United States has not won the wars we have fought on sheer military strength alone. The commanders, the president’s advisers, and even the presidents themselves have spent a great deal of time learning about the enemy. No war is won by brute force. Tactical strategy and in-depth knowledge are always necessary.

If we are going to win the war against Satan and his forces, we must know something about him. For one, he is our adversary, a fallen angel, the prince of this age, and the father of lies. But foremost, he is a defeated foe. He deceives the body of Christ by coming as an angel of light. He strategically interjects error into our thinking with the purpose of confusing and derailing us in our spiritual walk. Satan’s chief goal is to cause us to doubt God.

The way to oppose him is with the truth of God’s Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit. If you want to win spiritually in this life, begin by memorizing scripture. Even a single verse can make a big difference when it comes to spiritual warfare. Ask God to reveal any sin in your life. Confess it, and then pray for His strength to turn from it. Dedicate your life to glorifying God and not the ways of the world.

The enemy will always remind you of times of defeat, but Jesus Christ speaks only of His love and power and victory. You can place your complete hope in Him because He will never fail you. The battle is His to win as you daily trust Him. He will fight for you if you let Him. Besides, He has never lost!

*“To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me” (Psalm 25:1).*

**Bulletin Digest**

# UNIQUE EXPRESSIONS

*“And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before” (Genesis 31:2).* Jacob could tell by the look on Laban’s face that he was not happy with him. The expression on our face may say more than we realize.

God made us social creatures who communicate not only through words but also through subtle and unintentional outward displays. Our facial expressions, gestures, postures, and other forms of body language say something.

Our tone of voice conveys a message along with our words. *“The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly” (Proverbs 18:23).* A poor man asks because he is in no position to demand; a rich man is harsh with people because they are a bother to him. The older men advised Rehoboam to speak kindly to the people **(I Kings 12)**. The king ignored their counsel and followed the advice of the young men. He spoke harshly to the people and the nation divided. How you say a thing does matter.

Our modern devices are wonderful in some ways but they fall short in overall human communication. You can’t hear a friend’s tone in a text message. You don’t see a loved ones face in an e-mail. It can be easy to misunderstand or misjudge especially when the messages are short. These avenues of communication can become an excuse for not sitting down with a person to look each other in the eye and work out a problem. It’s easier to fire off a text than it is to face someone in person.

Yes, there are times when it’s wise to write before you meet with someone to work out a problem. Paul did this with the Corinthians. He had planned to return to Corinth but he decided to postpone that trip. Why? *“Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness” (II Corinthians 13:10).* He didn’t hide behind this letter, however. He was more than ready to face them in person.

What has happened to just plain talking with each other? There is nothing wrong with using computers to communicate, but overusing them is not good. Young people today know how to read the face of a smart phone, but they can’t read the face of people. They know how to send texts, pictures, and videos, but they don’t know how to share their feelings personally. This trend will bring more negative results. These young people are not being taught how to detect the body language of a liar. They are not learning to regard the rights and feelings of others because they are so busy looking down at their device that they rarely notice the people around them. They will have trouble communicating in a close, meaningful way in marriage. God made us as we are and we must not forget our need for that special human element in our relations to each other.