



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

May 2, 2021

P.O. Box 416  
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**Elders:**

Kendall Bear  
Dana Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Larry Brackett  
Aaron Evans  
Larry Hill  
Steve McCreary

**Minister:**

Dale Barger

**Secretary:**

**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

## A Year of Learning

A little over twelve months ago, our nation and community literally came to a screeching halt due the Coronavirus worldwide pandemic. I think we would all agree, the past twelve months has been a learning experience! When I analyze a situation, I always ask three questions: First, where have we been? Second, where are we? Third, where are we going?

The past twelve months has taught us about ourselves, our employers, our society, and the Lord's church. Many of us were literally caught off guard. No one anticipated what was to follow when all facets of life moved towards a "temporary shutdown" that eventually became long-term.

While the obstacles have been challenging, may we look for the good? Look for the good things we have learned as Christians during this time:

1. The church is resilient (**Matt. 16:18**).
2. We found new ways to share the Gospel (**Matt. 28:16-20**).
3. Assembling is important (**Heb. 10:25**).
4. We realized the importance of our spiritual health (**John 4:23-24**).
5. We have learned to walk in unity when faced with disagreements (**Eph. 4:1-6**).
6. We have a responsibility to check on those who have been spiritually weakened (**Luke 15:1-4**).

We know where we have been, and we know where we are. Let us never allow an obstacle to stand between us and where we are going (**Rev. 21 and 22**).

Allen Jones  
South Green Street church of Christ  
Glasgow, KY

## Woman, Behold, Thy Son! Behold, Thy Mother!

Three sayings that Jesus spoke during the first three hours of our Lord's crucifixion have been preserved. The third saying will be the focus of this article. First, note some background.

Jesus knew beforehand that once He was taken, the disciples would distance themselves from Him. He had even told them, "*All ye shall be offended in me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad*" (**Matthew 26:31**). Who can forget the vehement denials of Peter?

When all had forsaken Jesus, the exception reads like this: "*But there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene*" (**John 19:25**). Surely, words cannot express the intensity of Mary's agony as she gazed upon her Son.

There was, however, another exception. Along with the women, there was a man at the foot of the cross. "*Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by whom he loved*" (**John 19:26**). The one apostle who clung more closely to Jesus than all the rest, known as "*the disciple whom Jesus loved*" (**John 21:20**), was John.

Looking down upon this little band of disciples, Jesus said, "*Woman, behold thy son!*" (**John 19:26**). The statement which follows reveals that He was not calling attention to Himself. Rather, he was calling His mother's attention to John. He then said to John, "*Behold, thy mother!*" (**John 19:27**).

The 5th commandment of the Decalogue required men to "*Honor thy father and thy mother...*" (**Exodus 20:12**). Even while enduring the agony of the torture, Jesus summoned the energy to ensure continued care for His mother! In essence, Jesus was calling upon His mother to allow John to take His place as her son, and He was asking John to assume the care of His mother. Jesus wanted His mother to "*adopt*" His best friend, and for His friend to "*adopt*" His mother.

We have no doubt of John's willingness, for the Bible reveals that "*from that hour the disciple took her unto his own home*" (**John 19:27**). Almost for certain, Joseph was dead at this time. Jesus and His family had been poor from His birth (**Luke 2:22-24**, the offering allowed for the poor). A widow in Israel had little means of support.

Are your parents living? Show them the honor they deserve. It is not enough to send flowers on Mother's Day. Give them the care they deserve. How sad it is when grown children, rather than caring for their parents, are still being propped up by their parents!

George Jensen