



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

November 13, 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

## Everybody Needs a Barnabas

Saul, later known as Paul, and John Mark were well-known in the early church. But they might not have achieved their positions of leadership if it had not been for the unique ministry of a lesser known personality, Barnabas. Almost every time Barnabas is mentioned in the Bible, he is encouraging someone. This seems to have been his principal contribution to the growth of the church.

After Paul's conversion, Christians were afraid to accept him because of his previous anti-Christian persecutions. It was Barnabas who had the courage to step out and take the risk to stand beside Paul and encourage him. As a result, Paul was eventually accepted by the church and went on to become a great missionary. He wrote more than one-third of the New Testament.

Similarly, John Mark needed an encourager. He had been a failure. He started out on a missionary journey and, for some unknown reason, turned back. His failure was so miserable that Paul refused to give him a second trip.

But Barnabas, the encourager, stepped in once again. He took John Mark and spent the necessary time to help him re-establish his life.

And it worked. Years later, while Paul was in prison, he wrote to Timothy and requested that he bring John Mark because he was profitable for the ministry.

Who knows what might have happened to John Mark if it had not been for Barnabas—an ordinary Christian who did what he did best, encourage people.

Every person needs a Barnabas – someone who will encourage him or her to achieve his or her potential. You can fulfill a vital ministry by being an encourager to others around you.

People respond to encouragement because it gives them hope.

If Saul and Mark had been left alone, they might have given up in despair. But, the presence of one other human being, Barnabas the encourager, gave them the sense that all was not lost. It gave them hope.

Tom Kelton  
via Nettleton church of Christ  
Jonesboro, AR

# Affirmation

Humans need it. We want others to give it freely, not grudgingly. We want it to come without prompting and we would love for it to happen on a regular basis. However, most of us are of such disposition we do not need it every day or, for that matter, every week. But we do need it. What is “it?” The answer is affirmation – the acknowledgment by someone outside ourselves, that we are needed, wanted and valued for our unique contribution to their life.

The apostle Paul was a master of affirmation. Just a quick glance at the New Testament books which are his letters to churches and individuals will confirm this. As you look over the following verses, note the phrases of affirmation:

*“Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in the Lord, who risked their necks for me” (Romans 16:3-4).*

*“I rejoice at the coming of Stephan us and Fortunatus and Achaicus...For they refreshed my spirit as well as yours...” (1 Corinthians 16:17-18).*

*“Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything” (Ephesians 6:21).*

*“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy” (Philippians 1:3-4).*

*“For I bear him (Epaphras) witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hieropolis” (Colossians 4:13).*

*“To Timothy, my beloved child” (2 Timothy 1:2).*

*“To Titus, my true child in a common faith” (Titus 1:4).*

He greeted, complimented, and encouraged those to whom he wrote. He mentioned names of people whom he admired and appreciates and was not showy or dramatic in his affirmation.

You and I can follow Paul’s example. We can do so in writing, just as he did with a few well-chosen words. It can also be done personally, with a touch, handshake, or hug. All it takes is the courage to push those words past our lips. One such sentence could be, “*I am glad you are my...*” You fill in the blank with friend, wife, husband, son, daughter, teacher, etc.

One note of caution, however—you had better mean every word, because they will probably know if you are not sincere.

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