



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 11, 2020

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:

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 pm

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

He is Our Only Hope

When I was about 8 years old, I was asked by a neighborhood friend to attend an afternoon of swimming. I could not swim but I thought, "Just getting to tag along would be fun." Within a few minutes of arriving at our destination, I was easily talked into getting in the water while holding on to the side of the pool. A few more minutes passed, and I slipped into the water, gasping, fighting vigorously to return to my safe state. No matter how hard I tried, I could not regain any type of traction or get my head above water. My peers were busy playing and did not notice my plight. I did not have any hope of getting out of my situation. Thank goodness I grabbed a limb of another child, he realized I was in trouble, and he helped to get me back to the side of the pool. I, again, had hope. I went from being hopeless to having hope.

Regardless of the situation, challenges, or the news we receive, Christians have hope! **Hebrews 6:19** says, "*This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.*" We clearly understand the imagery of an anchor. As Christians, we have a life of hope which is unshakeable in the face of obstacles in our path. When the waters crash into the ship, it will absorb the pressure and not drift. As the stormy waters of life push us in all directions, we too, will not drift so long as we are anchored in Christ...this is our hope.

As Christians, what is our hope? Our obedience allows us to have eternal hope. **Titus 1:2** says, "*...in hope of eternal life which God who cannot lie, promised before time began...*" **Colossians 1:5** paints a richer picture of what it means to have hope, "*because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel...*"

Do you, by your obedience and commitment to your Christian walk, have the hope of Heaven? If we are in Christ, we have hope of a future life with Him when He returns (**Colossians 1:27**). We can go from being hopeless to being full of hope because of God's promises (**Hebrews 10:23**). God is faithful, are we? He is our only hope!

Allen Jones

Cutting Each Other Off

Talk about going to extremes! A man in Maine took a Sawzall and cut his neighbor's garage in half. Since part of the structure was on his property, Gabriel Brawn had a legal right to do it. The overlapping garage hadn't been a problem for years, as his relationship with the previous neighbor was amiable.

After the neighbor died, and the new residents moved in, the conflicts began over a boundary dispute, and the animosity between the two parties escalated. A frustrated Brawn decided to bring the conflict to an end by bringing out surveyors, who concluded that part of the garage was, in fact, on his property. The neighbors had—quite literally—crossed the line. The garage was cut in half, and a privacy fence went up, equipped with surveillance cameras.

While extreme, Brawn's solution seems to have been decisive, as there has been no communication between the neighbors since the severing (*Bangor Daily News*, July 18, 2020).

In **1 Timothy 3:15**, Paul describes the church as the “household of God.” And while disagreements have, and will, occur between Christians, severing relationships is not the way to resolve issues. That would be destructive to the household.

Jesus made the statement in **Matthew 12:25** that “*a house divided against itself will not stand.*”

Too many times, friendships between disagreeing Christians are severed, broken in half, and seemingly destroyed because of the hurt feelings that go along with the perception of being offended.

When turmoil arises between brethren, there is trouble in God's household.

Here are a few things to consider before decisively (and divisively) taking extreme measures to end those relationships:

Reach out. **Romans 12:8** reminds the Christian that it is *his* responsibility to “*live peaceably with all.*”

Reconcile. Both parties need to make an effort in order to bring each other back together. It's vitally important to remember that the body of Christ is mutilated when its members (**1 Corinthians 12:12**) aren't willing to make the effort to forgive each other (**Ephesians 4:32**).

Repair. In **Colossians 3:13**, Christians are called to remember that the Lord's forgiveness serves as an example to model after, in order to bear with each other and forgive each other when one has a complaint against another.

Rebuild. **1 Thessalonians 5:11** instructs us to continue to “*encourage each other and build each other up.*” Doing so will allow friendships to be rebuilt.

Robert Frost wrote that “good fences make good neighbors.” With Christians, good neighbors make good neighbors.