



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

October 15, 2023

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**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

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## Watch!

To “*watch*” is to be on the lookout, to be alert and vigilant. “*Watch*” is a constant admonition in Scripture. In addition to other words translated “*watch*,” the Greek word “*gregoreo*” appears 22 times in the New Testament. God wants us to watch, but for what?

Many of the admonitions to “*watch*” have reference to the Second Coming of Christ. “*Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming*” (**Matthew 24:42**). “*Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming*” (**Matthew 25:13**). “*Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober*” (**1 Thess. 5:6**). “*Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame*” (**Revelation 16:15**).

Elders are the shepherds and oversees of the flock, the local congregation. As such, they need to watch (**Acts 20:28,31**). They have the great responsibility to watch for our souls (**Hebrews 13:17**). But all Christians need to watch! Paul exhorted, “*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love*” (**1 Corinthians 16:13-14**). Peter exhorted, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion; seeking whom he may devour*” (**1 Peter 5:8**). Here the word “*vigilant*” (*gregoreo*) means “*to watch*.”

The admonition to “*watch*” is often connected to prayer. “*Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak*” (**Matthew 26:41**). “*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving*” (**Colossians 4:2**). “*Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching*” (**Luke 12:37**).

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# Losing Your Connection

With technology comes great gains in the way we are able to live our lives. However, nothing can be more frustrating than when that same technology meant to make our lives easier fails. One of the most frequent ways this can happen is to lose a connection. Cell phones, internet access, and satellite dishes are all susceptible to this common problem. How many of us have been right in the middle of a long conversation only to lose connection and have to start all over? How many of us have been watching the big game or our favorite movie only to lose signal from our satellite miss out because of the lost connection? Technology may bring great advances in the way we live our lives, but it also seems to bring more annoyances with it.

Like a television or cell phone, Christians must maintain their connection. Our connection is not with some satellite hovering in the sky. Rather, our connection is the adoption we have from our Father in Heaven. This is the most precious connection a person can make on this earth. However, as we travel through this world, things often come up that interrupt our connection with God. We may get distracted by other interests, tempted by sins, or discouraged by various trials and tribulations. Whatever the reason, losing one's connection as a child of God is without a doubt the most pitiful state we can find ourselves in.

So how do we make sure our connection is strong? While not a complete list, I hope that the following suggestions will help us in our efforts. **First**, use the gift of prayer coupled with Bible study. Prayer is the opening line of communication with God, and Bible study is the opportunity for God to respond to our requests. A Christian who forgets these two tasks will find themselves easily plucked from the safety of God. **Second**, use the gifts of our assemblies. Our times of worship are meant to build us closer together as the family of God. However, by singing together, learning from God's Word together, and remembering Christ's death together, we also grow closer to God. This helps keep our connection clear in our daily lives. **Finally**, show acts of kindness to others. John tells us that God is love. When we display love for others, we look more like God than at any other time in our lives. By simply being like Him, we maintain our connection to Him.

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