



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

October 29, 2023

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

## What's Really Scary

As the cool autumn breezes bring in a new season, many people will kick off fall by scaring themselves silly. Zombies, vampires, and horror movies will be the focal point for October, saturating American culture from the local discount store to satellite television, and all points in between.

Why some people enjoy being scared of things that do not exist is beyond me. Daniel Kelly, a philosophy professor at Purdue University, once said that Halloween is the time when people can have their “*fear and disgust buttons pushed without actually being in danger.*”

Isn't it strange that people seek out and dwell upon evil things to tantalize their emotions with fear of non-existent things like zombies and werewolves, but seem to have no actual fear of things that really exist, such as the coming day of judgment and eternal punishment in hell?

The apostle Paul reveals that Jesus will return “*in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (**2 Thess. 1:8**). The Lord Jesus says, in fact, that separation from God for all eternity in hell will be so horrifying that, “*If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched, where “Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched”*” (**Mark 9:43-44**).

Halloween is enjoyed by many today for the “*safe scares*” it supposedly provides. But have you considered the horror of eternal life without Jesus? If you reject Him, you will live in eternal horror, with no relief or safety to be found. Now that's scary.

Matt Clifton  
Judsonia church of Christ  
Judsonia, AR

# Masks

Do you wear a mask? I can remember being so excited one year at Halloween. I found a mask on clearance. It was a full head mask with light up eyes and a voice changer built in. That thing was so hot, and my breath condensed on the inside, but man, I can remember how excited I was to wear it.

We often wear a mask. Our behavior and attitude changes depending on where we are and who we are with. People act one way when they are around their family, and a different way when they are at work or school. Do we act a different way when we are with the Church?

We can even wear a mask and try to hide things from ourselves. That covers our emotions, our sins, our weaknesses, and our fear of judgement. That mask is just as hot, suffocating, and unpleasant as that Halloween mask I had as a kid. We are afraid to be honest with ourselves because we might feel inadequate, exposed, vulnerable, and flawed. The truth is, we are all of those things.

**Be honest with each other.** The Bible addresses our hiding and lying to each other. *“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (Col. 3:9-10).* God knows that only through honesty can we grow and help others grow in the faith.

**Be honest with yourself.** *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test” (2 Cor. 13:5)?* We must be honest with our self. We need to be able to accept the truth to improve and work on areas in our own life.

**Be honest with God, He already knows.** There is no mask that can hide your actions, thoughts, and feelings from God. *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13).* If you think you are hiding from God, you are only fooling yourself.

Brad Tolbert  
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Monticello, AR