



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

October 2, 2016

P.O. Box 416  
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.  
Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**Elders:**

Dana Carter  
Kenneth Carter  
Don Chandler

**Deacons:**

Kendall Bear  
Larry Brackett  
Roger Carter  
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 7:30 pm

**Email:**

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**Website:**

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## WE NEED EACH OTHER!

There is an indelible and universal truth as it pertains to the church. We need each other. In fact, the Bible is adamantly clear that without the contribution of each member, the church does not properly function. Thus is the substance of Paul's discussion in **I Corinthians 12**. The church in Corinth struggled with supremacy. There were those who possessed the most coveted and thereby most respected spiritual gifts, and to those they bestowed greater honor. Within the church, they were considered the most important. To dispel such a divisive notion and to promote unity, Paul makes some assertions. Notice what he says in **I Corinthians 12:19-22**, "*And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.*"

Why? Because truthfully, if we all possessed the same talents, the same abilities, the same strengths and even weaknesses; where would the body be? The answer is simple. It would be lacking what you can contribute whether great or small. You see brethren; the truth of the matter remains indelible. We need each other. Therefore, let us conclude that although you may not be able to do what others can; there is no gift given by God that is not both useful and beneficial to the growth and vitality of this congregation. So, by all means, contribute!

**Jeremy Tucker**

# GOD & YOU

*“On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land” (Acts 27:27).*

Your attitude and behavior in any and all circumstances ought to be governed by your relationship to God. Paul had been in a ferocious storm on the sea for nearly two weeks (Acts 27:27). His relationship to God, however, enabled him not only to endure the stress, but to comfort and encourage the others on board: *“And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed, God has granted you all those who sail with you.’ Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God, that it will be just as was told me” (Acts 27:22-25).* Notice three aspects of Paul’s relationship to God:

**Paul belonged to God (vs. 23).** He recognized the truthfulness of the words he had written earlier to Corinth: *“You are not your own...You were bought at a price” (I Corinthians 6:19-20).* One of Paul’s own descriptions of himself is *“a (bond)servant of Jesus Christ” (Romans 1:1).* A bondservant (slave) is owned by someone else. Paul’s owner was the Lord. Liberty-loving people that we are, we cringe at the thought of being owned by anyone! However, the sooner we acknowledge that God owns us and that this is a good thing for us, the better off we will be.

**Paul served God (Acts 27:23).** As a slave, Paul’s purpose was to do the will of his master, Jesus. Again, we flinch at the idea of subjecting our own will to anyone else’s! We would do well, however, to swallow our pride and follow the example of the Son of God, who *“did not come to be served, but to serve” (Matthew 20:28).* Contrary to popular belief, true religion is not about doing whatever makes me feel good. First and foremost, we are to serve God. If our hearts are right, such faithful service will result in abundant good feelings.

**Paul believed God (Acts 27:25).** For many days the storm had pounded them. They had no idea where they were; the storm was not easing; lightening the ship had done little good; and *“all hope that we would be saved was finally given up” (v. 20).* Nevertheless, when God’s messenger told Paul that he and all others aboard the ship would survive, Paul believed it. *“The things which are impossible with men are possible with God” (Luke 18:27).*

Let us trust our Lord, believing what He tells us. Human wisdom may not agree with the Bible, but the Bible is right! You belong to God, Serve Him! Believe Him! Doing so, you can endure even the worst of times.

**Joe Slater**