



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

October 1, 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:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Living Hope

John Maxwell tells about a small town in Maine that was proposed for the site of a great hydroelectric plant. A dam would be built across the river and the town submerged. When the project was announced, the people were given many months to arrange their affairs and relocate.

During those months, a curious thing happened. All improvements ceased. Day by day the whole town got shabbier and shabbier. A long time before the waters came, the town looked uncared for and abandoned, even though the people had not yet moved away. One citizen explained: "*Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.*" That town was cursed with hopelessness because it had no future.

Now spiritually speaking suppose I said there was no heaven, no resurrection from the dead, no Bible, no church, no Christ or no God. How would we view life? Would we still look forward to the future? Probably not, "*Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.*"

But Christ is real, the Bible is the word of God, there is a heaven, God is alive, and the church is here; this makes all the difference. We have a living hope (**1 Pt. 1:3**).

Where there is hope in Christ, there is a future, and Christ's hope gives us the power to live for Him in the present.

Mark T. Tonkery
Norval Park church of Christ
Zanesville, OH

Failure Need Not Be Fatal

History books are filled with biographies of failures who made good. From them we can learn the valuable lesson that failure need not be fatal.

The first President of the United States—the father of our country—lost two-thirds of the battles he fought during the Revolutionary War. But George Washington won the war, founded a nation, and succeeded brilliantly in spite of those failures.

Who failed more than Babe Ruth? In a baseball career that spanned 21 years, the immortal slugger hit 714 home runs, but he struck out 1,330 times. Until he retired in 1935, this famous failure was baseball's biggest attraction.

Just because one fails at some point in life does not necessarily mean he or she is a failure. After Edison had experimented 10,000 times with his storage battery and still could not get it to work, a friend tried to comfort him. "*Why I have not failed,*" Edison replied. "*I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.*" Nearly deaf and with only three months of formal schooling, Thomas A. Edison patented more than 1,000 inventions. During his 60 years of reaching toward the unknown, Edison failed more than he succeeded. But who would call Edison a failure?

Is it a sin to fail? The answer is both yes and no. It is a sin when failure is due to moral or spiritual laxness or to laziness. But it is not a sin to fail when one has done his best, within the will of God, and the results were not what he wanted.

One must not be so afraid of life that one refuses to try. We don't have to succeed, but we do have to give life a run for its money.

A faithful old preacher felt he had failed miserably when he reported to his congregation that only one new member—and just a boy at that—had been added to the church during the year. But that boy went on to become a missionary in Africa who brought the gospel to tribes that previously had never heard the name of Jesus.

Take heart! If life has put you on the canvas and pummeled the breath out of you, it is still too early to quit. If you feel you must quit, then do it the day after tomorrow. You may have lost the battle today, but you could win the war tomorrow.

As Grantland Rice, America's first great sports writer, put it, "*When Jesus comes to judge us, He will not be so concerned about whether we won or lost, but how we played the game!*" The world will measure you by your success, but God will measure you by your faithfulness (**1 Corinthians 4:2**).

via Church of Christ
Grand Blanc, MI