



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 17, 2023

P.O. Box 416
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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:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Why Do You Go to Worship?

Praise the Lord! I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation (Psalm 111:1).

We gather and worship on a different day than those spoke of in the passage above. Yet, God's people have always been commanded to worship Him in a prescribed manner. The New Testament gives examples of what, when, why, and how to worship. Most Christians understand these things, yet, often many brethren go to worship out of a sense of "got to."

Think about our giving and the prescribed attitude we are to have towards it: "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). We see this commanded act must be purposeful (or planned) and done with cheerfulness. Giving can't be done "grudgingly."

Now, think about when we come to praise God on the first day of the week. If we come and do all the things we are to do by God's word, will He accept "going through the motions" in our worship? I think you and I know the answer to that.

I believe if we would follow the example of how to give and apply that to our worship, we would satisfy and please God. Let our worship be purposeful and/or planned. Let us be cheerful or happy to be there. Do not allow Satan to tempt you to begrudge that time with praise of God. You don't have anything better to do. This time belongs to God even if you have worked every day this week.

Plan to be at worship with the saints on Sunday. Give God His due with a cheerful heart. If you purpose to be there, you will be.

Chris Moore
Clarendon church of Christ
Clarendon, TX

What Can You Do to Help?

Church growth is not an accident—it's deliberate. Churches that do not have plans or goals for growth usually do not grow. Having goals are nice, but every member must do their part to achieve these goals. Here are some suggestions for helping the church achieve its goals in attendance and conversions.

Identify people. New Christians do not magically appear, they are made from existing people. We can help the church grow by identifying people in our lives that need the gospel. The best candidates are friends and family members. Other prospects could be coworkers and acquaintances that we see often. Paul identified those on Mars Hill as ones needing the gospel (**Acts 17:16-31**).

Pray for people. Those we identify as needing the gospel deserve every effort we can give them. Prayer is a small but powerful effort that could be the difference between winning someone to Christ or missing that opportunity. Certainly Cornelius is an example of a sinner aided by prayer (**Acts 10:1-8**).

Prepare for people. Before we approach those we identify as having a need, we ought to prepare ourselves. We should know what we are going to say and how we might answer some objections. It all goes back to planning. Jesus spent over three years preparing the apostles to change the world (**Luke 24:44-49**).

Approach people. We often leave this undone. Searching for the perfect time to approach someone with the gospel usually means it never gets done. Once we have prepared, we must approach them and bring up God. Philip was told by the Spirit to go to the eunuch, and he ran to approach him in the chariot (**Acts 8:29-30**).

Invite people. Once the subject of God is brought up, do not forget to invite them to study the Bible or come to worship with you. Sometimes we may feel like it is overbearing to invite people to study. However, without an invitation to do something, approaching someone about God becomes little more than an opinion swapping session. Here again, Philip serves as an example by asking him about his understanding (**Acts 8:30**).

Invite them again. If someone accepts our invitation be joyous, but do not be duped. Just because they came once, does not mean they are planning to come again. So, invite them again. Of course, if they reject our invitation that does not mean we stop inviting them. Persistence often pays off in time. On the day of Pentecost, many people heard Peter, but only 3,000 obeyed. However, by the fourth chapter the number was over 5,000 because many received another invitation (**Acts 2:41-44**).

Sam Dilbeck
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