



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

September 19, 2021

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

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## Heaven Holds My Christian Family

The first verse of Brother Teddlie's song states, "*Earth holds no treasures but perish with using, However precious they be; Yet there's a country to which I am going: Heaven holds all to me.*" No doubt he was referring to the inspired words of **Hebrews 11:13-16**. Of Abraham, Sara, Isaac, and Jacob, it is said:

*These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

### **Heaven Holds All to My Christian Family Because Heaven Held All to Abraham.**

Abraham, Sara, Isaac, and Jacob died in faith. They didn't expect to receive the promises on life's side of eternity, but "*by faith they could see it afar.*" They were persuaded of the promises. They embraced the promises. Like Isaac and Jacob, our Christian Family are heirs with him of the same promise because we are Abraham's spiritual offspring through Christ (**Heb. 11:9; Gal 3:26- 29**). While there was a temporal physical fulfillment of that promise as it pertains to the land of Canaan (**Gen. 50:24**), Abraham had his eyes set on "*Canaan's fair and happy land, where our possession lies.*" He knew life was temporary. "*Here we are but straying pilgrims.*" Peter preached this promise on Pentecost, "*for the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call*" (**Acts 2:39**). Sweet indeed are the promises.

### **Heaven Holds All to My Christian Family Because Heaven Held All to Jesus.**

The Bible teaches that what was lost in Adam (the tree of life) is restored in Christ. Jesus said, "*To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God*" (Rev 2:7). John assured his readers, "*Blessed are they that do his*

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*commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14).*

Jesus taught with a heavenly focus. He caused people to think about Heaven more. He encouraged folks to endure the persecution that would come for righteousness’ sake for their reward would be great in heaven (**Matt. 5:12**). He taught that we should lay up for ourselves “*treasures in heaven*” (**Matt. 6:20**). He also taught much about the kingdom which is of heavenly origin. His goal in the salvation of sinners was to offer them a place “*that where I am, there ye may be also*” (**John 14:3**). Jesus said, “*For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day*” (**John 6:38-40**). Jesus went to the cross because Heaven held all to Him, and Heaven shall continue to receive Christ “*until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began*” (**Acts 3:21**).

### **Heaven Holds All to My Christian Family Because Heaven Held All to Paul.**

Heaven held all to Paul because Christ was there. He said, “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better*” (**Phil. 1:21-23**).

Heaven held all to Paul because eternal life was his goal. “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*” (**2 Tim. 4:7-8**).

Heaven held all to Paul because it was in the mind of God from eternity. Paul introduces himself in the epistle to Titus as, “*a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God’s elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began*” (**Titus 1:1-2**). A home with God in Heaven was not an afterthought, but rather a promise.

### **Heaven Holds All to My Christian Family Because....**

“*God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away*” (**Rev. 21:4**). “*Beyond this land of parting*” is a place where there is no physical death and “*the soul (of man) never dies.*” Christians need to think about Heaven more. We need not fall into that “*I want to go to heaven, just not today*” mentality, as in Joe Diffie’s 1993 song. Paul taught that “*our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body*” (**Phil 3:20-21**).

Christians are taught to be prepared for His coming (**Luke 12:40**). We eagerly await the marriage feast and the words of our Savior, “*Well done thou good and faithful servant,*” as we enter into the joy of the Lord (**Matt. 25**). Until then, we watch, we wait, and we work, knowing that “*Heaven will surely be worth it all!*”