



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 20, 2020

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:

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 pm

Email:

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Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

The Blessings of Friends and Family

It is truly a blessing to be part of a loving family. In like fashion, it is a great blessing to have dear friends. Sadly, not everyone knows what it feels like to be part of such things. All too often we take our family and friends for granted.

If you are so blessed as to have good friends, thank your heavenly Father.

If you are so blessed to have a loving earthly family, thank your heavenly Father.

If you are so blessed as to have a loving spiritual family (meaning you are a member of the body for which Jesus died—the Church), thank your heavenly Father.

In fact, the sacrifice that brought about the New Testament Church is one of the ways by which we know we are deeply loved by God (**Acts 20:20**).

In the church, God has provided everything a family needs: Leadership (**1 Peter 5:1-4**); Companionship and Strength (**Gal. 6:2; 1 Thess. 4:18; Heb. 10:24**); Love (**1 John 3:1, 11**). Don't you want to be part of this? Don't you want all that are dear to you to be part of this?

Bart Warren

Adaptability, Attitude, and Always Abounding

For some people, when they encounter changes to their environment or routines, it is unsettling, unnerving, and can be a very traumatic experience. For others, when they encounter change, it can be exciting, thrilling, and a roller-coaster ride of new experiences (either good or bad). For all of us, whether we have positive reactions or negative reactions to change, it should be an experience to say, “I trust in God to keep me grounded.” Life changes. Situations change, but God remains constant (**Heb. 13:8; Jas. 1:17**). Here are some ways we can trust Him more, no matter how we view change:

Appreciate the great things going on for the cause of Christ (Phil. 1:12-18). If things are changing for us, often they are changing for others as well. If that’s the case, look at how God is showing comfort and care for others through the work of His people (**2 Cor. 1:3-5**). Praise Him and thank Him for that. Focus on those things because they WILL change your perspective and your attitude. Trust Him.

Ask: what opportunities has God given me personally to further the cause of Christ (Phil. 1:12-13)? No matter how you view change, see that there are open doors before you to bear someone’s burden, ease someone’s load, or invite them to meet the Jesus we know and love (**Phil. 1:17**). If we only ever look at change and see ourselves, we miss changing life circumstances for others and realize that *NOW* they might be receptive to the gospel.

Ask: How have I used this change to draw nearer to God (Phil. 1:27-30)? How has this change affected my relationship with God? How does it have the potential to affect my relationship? Spend more time with God in prayer, in meditation, in service. The truth is, as time changes, so also what we emphasize in our devotion to God can also change. However, commit to growing nearer to Him and more in the likeness of His Son everyday regardless of change (**Phil. 4:10-13; 2 Pet. 3:18**).

Andy Baker