



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 24, 2017

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
865-354-0855

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:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

WORSHIP IN SONG

As a preacher I often sit and look around at the people who are singing. We are singing songs of praise to the God of the universe. We stand in awe at the power and majesty of God. We know this is the same God who created the universe and who will bring it to an end. This is the same God who raised Jesus from the dead and we are so happy that He did. We believe He is able to raise us from the dead also.

We sing praise to God. We also are singing the praises OF God. We want everyone to know how we feel about Him and how we love and adore Him. Without God we would be nothing and without God we would surely perish. Oh, we love God!

We may not sing on key. We may not even know what “on key” is. We may not know where “on key” is. That isn’t why we are singing. We are singing praises to/of our God. We are not looking for the praise of men in how good we sing. We are not looking for the praise of men in how beautiful our voice is. We are praising God, OUR God.

Then sometimes I see someone who isn’t singing.

Let me ask you a question: How do you feel about your God? This is your God. Right? You love and adore Him. Right?

Then sometimes I hear someone say they can’t sing. Let me tell you a story about turkey hunting. Calling turkeys in the spring is an “art.” Some towns have contests for the best turkey callers. A friend of mine enjoys turkey hunting. He has a good calling ability. There is a certain way people are taught to call.

Anyway, this friend was hunting one spring and heard someone calling. He said it was the worst job of calling he had ever heard. He thought it would surely improve, but it did not. So when he could stand it no longer he began to slip up on this caller to see who it was. He finally got pretty close and then he saw...a turkey hen calling for a gobbler. He then realized that the “art” of calling may not be what man thinks it is!

God made everyone’s voice. It may not sound good to me. It may not sound good to the person who has it. It may be beautiful to the Creator. Never deprive God of hearing His creature praise Him. Sing!

Vernon Curry

WHY CHURCHES GROW

Over the last few years, numerous books and articles have been written about why churches grow (or don't grow). They have offered all kinds of solutions to the problems of declining church growth. Some of their ideas are:

1. Bigger Buildings.
2. Better location.
3. Good publicity.
4. Plenty of parking.
5. Better qualified staff.

Now these are good and if possible, churches need to have them. But when we look at the book of **Acts**, we see that the church described there grew because of some other reasons. Let's consider some of them:

They Preached the Simple Message of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:22-28). Their efforts were not directed at preaching social reform or some kind of revolutionary new gimmick to try on the people. Salvation was (and is) man's greatest need and they preached the message of the one who could provide it.

They Enjoyed Each Other's Fellowship (Acts 2:42-46). They spent a lot of time together even when they were not in the public assembly. They ate, prayed, and studied together. They shared their possessions.

They Had A Common Purpose (Acts 4:32). This verse says, "*And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.*" When people are held together by like-mindedness and common purpose they are a powerful and successful force.

They Were Respected By Outsiders (Acts 5:13). There was just something about that group of Christians that commanded the respect of non-Christians. Their work, morality, zeal, dedication and spirituality just seemed to make them much better than those outside of Christ.

They Were Committed (Acts 5:29). After being put in jail and being threatened, Peter said, "*We ought to obey God rather than men.*" Christianity was not (and is not now) a practice based on convenience or the mood of the one claiming to be a Christian, but on giving ourselves totally to the obedience of God's will, whatever the cost.

They Practiced Evangelism Everywhere Every Day (Acts 8:1-4). Those who were scattered as the result of the persecution "*preached the word wherever they went.*" Preaching and teaching Jesus was not limited to an apostolic hierarchy but it was taught as they had the opportunity.

So, we can see that church growth in the New Testament was not the result of adequate church staff, big buildings, good locations, but by every Christian being dedicated to the cause of Christ and unswerving in his desire as he had talent and opportunity.

Ferman Carpenter