



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 27, 2015

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:

Kirby Hinds

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

Monday

Ladies class 10:00 a.m.

Email:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

LIKE A THIEF IN THE NIGHT

Have you ever been robbed? In December of 1989, just before Christmas, I returned home from college one afternoon to find our back door standing wide open. It had been kicked in by thieves who had robbed our home and the home of my aunt and uncle down the road. All of our Christmas presents and many valuable things had been stolen from us. We were devastated. Needless to say, the burglars did not give us any warning that they were coming.

That's just how the Bible describes the second coming of Christ in judgment. In **Matthew 24:42-44**, Jesus Christ said, *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him."*

Other Biblical writers borrowed the Lord's metaphor. For example, the apostle Peter wrote, *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up"* (**II Peter 3:10; cf. I Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 3:3; 16:15**).

Even though different preachers and religious groups have tried to predict when Christ is coming again, they have all been wrong and they will continue to be wrong. Just as the coming of the thief is unknown and unexpected, even so will be the return of our Lord in judgment. But even though we cannot know the date, we can be ready to face Him in judgment. Like the old hymn says, "There's a great day coming...Are you ready?"

Travis Quartermous

A COST ANALYSIS OF LOVE

God is love, I John 4:8. In my opinion the best place to start an attempt to grasp something that is unfathomable is beginning with something we do understand – kinda – family. When our children were born, what joy they brought in our lives and oh, so many concerns. If we were the parents we should have been, we showered them with love and discipline. As they grew, we trained them to seek things that were good and right and taught them to avoid things that were bad and wrong. With varying degrees of success in those endeavors, we were deeply motivated. The superficial reason that it most often given is that they may avoid calamity and be successful in business and life. The real treasure - less often spoken of - is our desire that they return to us *love*. The proof in that pudding manifests itself in their doing what we taught them, desiring to do well, and having a general disdain toward causing us pain.

Jesus said it best: *“If you love Me keep My commandments” (John 14:15)*. Many of us bemoan the pain our children have caused us, conveniently forgetting the pain we have caused our Father. Many spend time in wonder at what it must have taken for Jesus to come here and suffer and die and rightly so. However, I wonder if we overlook how much it must have taken for God to “send” Him. What we desire of our children is what God wants from His. Obedience? Yes, but more than that. A desire to be obedient, hence the true proof of love returned. When I tell my son I love him, he says, “I love you more.” I smile and say “You can’t.” When he asks me why, I realize I have made the first step toward understanding God’s love for me. Alas, the broken commandments whether spiritual or paternal are truly grievous but nothing compares to the hurt we incur from a love unreturned.

We can’t ever adequately fulfill God’s will in our lives without a desire to do so, and the basis for that desire is love. As people you hear speak of “those impossible children” and remark, “it just ain’t worth it,” smile and nod knowing all the while its worth so much more (**John 3:16**).

Tim Turpin