



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 6, 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:

rockwdcc@gmail.com

Website:

Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

Choose Your Friends Wisely

Life is filled with choices. We chose what we do for a living, what we eat, where we live, etc. One of the most challenging is the choice of friends. Solomon the wise prophet told us: *“The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray” (Proverbs 12:26).*

Too bad Solomon didn't listen to his own advice. **1 Kings 11:3** tells us as Solomon grew older, he had 1000 wives and slave wives. That verse concludes with this statement: *“And his wives turned away his heart.”*

One of the great examples of a loyal friend is seen in the friendship of Elijah and Elisha. When Elijah knew that the Lord was about to take him to heaven, three times he asked Elisha to stay behind. But Elisha wouldn't hear of it. He was not about to let his friend leave this world alone. He was loyal to the end (**2 Kings 2**).

Our greatest friend is Jesus. How many of our friends today would be willing to die that we might live? Yet this is what Jesus did for you!

As the song reminds us:

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus/No, not one! no, not one! None else could heal all our soul's diseases/No, not one! no, not one! Jesus knows all about our struggles,/He will guide till the day is done; There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus/No, not one! no, not one!

Larry Fitzgerald

Don't Be a Mosquito

I have loved living in Alabama for the past two years, but there's one major problem I've run into since moving: the mosquitos. These bugs are a nightmare. The one good thing about the winter is there aren't any of these blood sucking demons.

It honestly seems like there are two kinds of mosquitoes here. You have the ones that are small enough to fit through the screen door, and the ones big enough to push it open.

I did some research and found out a few interesting details about mosquitoes. For one, they are attracted to high cholesterol (If you get bit a ton you most likely need to slow down on the burgers). Two, they are attracted to carbon dioxide and can actually smell it from 150 feet away. And three, a mosquito's average lifespan is only about 10-14 days.

You may be wondering why I'm telling you this, but I actually found an interesting connection between mosquitos and a very specific group of people. The more I learned about them, the more they began to resemble negative people. For example, negative people love what isn't good for them, just like carbon monoxide can kill you and cholesterol can stop your heart. Also, negative people can only seem to keep a friend for about 10-14 days.

Paul, in the book of Philippians, is urging the church to show humility and to be servant minded like Christ. In **2:1-4**, he says, *"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

Paul through inspiration uses the word "conceit" (*kenodoxia*). This is defined as "a vain or exaggerated self-evaluation." A negative mindset under any circumstance is vain and selfish. We must always keep in mind that the people we are negative toward should be treated as more important than ourselves.

There is no room for negative people in the body of Christ. We are commanded to love each other, serve each other and encourage one another. Keeping in mind what Jesus has done for us, live to help your brothers and sisters in Christ.

P.S. Don't be a mosquito.