



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

September 9, 2018

P.O. Box 416  
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**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:**

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## LIFE CAN BE TOUGH

*“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)*

Jesus never promised us that everything would be perfect here on earth. He recognized that we would encounter trouble. But His instructions were to be of good cheer, not to let it get us down. As we encounter difficulties in life, it will help us to remember the big picture.

God is our Father and has a wonderful eternal plan for us. We are His children and He loves us. We are supposed to be learning to trust God and to obey Him. As we do, every problem we will ever face is an opportunity to walk in faith and please God. Every problem is an opportunity to overcome with God's help. How can we expect to receive the blessings promised to the victorious if we never have anything to overcome?

What is the answer when we seem to be overwhelmed with trouble? Look to Jesus. He has already won the victory. He has overcome and defeated the world. In Him **is** victory.

How can we look to Jesus? It is mostly a matter of focus, what we choose to think on. What God says in His Word will set us free and give us peace. What the circumstances say is not the final word.

So, go to God's Word. Cling to the promises. Speak them. Sing them. Shout them. Rejoice over them. And thank God for them.

Also, we need to develop a closer relationship with the Lord. That is His desire and it should be ours. All relationships are based on communication, so we must talk to the Lord to deepen our relationship with Him.

Develop the habit of talking with Him about everything. We can speak freely to Him – after all He knows what we are thinking anyway.

As our focus intensifies, no matter what we face, the Lord will be with us, and we can overcome because Jesus has already won the victory.

**Don Readhimer**

# STAY AWAY FROM THESE PEOPLE

The wise man himself, Solomon tells us not to get close to:

**People who are always changing their mind.** *“Meddle not with them that are given to change” (Proverbs 24:21).* You can’t depend on these people. You can’t trust them. They have no convictions or principles. They change with the situation. They are double minded and two faced. Solomon warns, *“Their calamity shall rise suddenly” (Proverbs 24:22).*

**People who can’t control their temper.** *“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul” (Proverbs 22:24-25).* Their temper gets them into trouble, but they never learn from their mistakes (Proverbs 19:19). If you don’t want problems, don’t hang around people who are like this. *“Anger resteth in the bosom of fools” (Ecclesiastes 7:9).*

**People who like to drink and party.** *“Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh” (Proverbs 23:20).* Regardless of how they act, they are not really happy; and they don’t have a promising future. The Preacher warns in the next verse, *“For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags” (Proverbs 23:21).* You will be worse, not better, if you hang around them. You may even start to think that the way they live is not so bad after all.

**People who are downright foolish.** *“Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge” (Proverbs 14:7).* Don’t think you can reason with him. Don’t argue with him. *“If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest” (Proverbs 29:9).* *“Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words” (Proverbs 23:9).*

**People who deceive and manipulate through flattery.** *“He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips” (Proverbs 20:19).* An insincere compliment is a setup. The flatterer is trying to get something from you – money, information, or favors. *“A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet” (Proverbs 29:5).*

**People who are seductive and immoral.** Solomon’s advice to young men about a strange woman is this: *“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house” (Proverbs 5:8).* Don’t mess around with people like this. Don’t play with fire. If you must speak to people like this, be brief and business-like. It’s better to be thought unfriendly than to be lured into sin.

The people you are around have an effect on you. The more you are with them, the more you will be like them. *“Be not deceived: evil communication corrupts good manners” (I Corinthians 15:33).* We can either listen to the Bible or we can learn the hard way, but we’ll never get around this principle. If you think you’re the exception, you’ll find out different.

If you want to be good, associate with good people. If you want to be the best you can be, be around the best people you know. *“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20).*

**Kerry Duke**