



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

June 30, 2024

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:**

Dale Barger

**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

## Independence

This week we will celebrate another “Fourth of July.” I enjoy the hot dogs and the fireworks and especially the arrival of family. Yet, I always contemplate the history of what happened back in 1776 when the Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 courageous men. They, and many others of their generation, paid a tremendous price for our freedom.

The Christian’s Declaration of Independence was also gained at a tremendous price of blood when our redemption was purchased by Jesus’ sacrifice (**Ephesians 1:7**). We signed our name to the Declaration when we were baptized into a relationship with Christ and His death (**Romans 6:1-7**). It took some courage for each one who has signed on to publicly declare that they were turning their backs on the world and would now give their lives to Christ.

The present generation may not fully appreciate what the original signers of the Declaration accomplished for all future generations. Our own times seem to be moving in a direction away from the original intent of those early patriots and from the moral principles that guided them. It may also be true that as Christians we could find ourselves slipping back into the ways of the world and enslaving ourselves all over again. We always have the choice as to which direction we go, so with the patriot, Joshua, let us declare: “...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (**Joshua 24:15**).

Guy Orbison, Jr.  
Church of Christ  
Durango, CO

# My Obligation To The Lord's Church

By: Gary Colley

The word “*obligation*” is of high importance to all the living. Especially is this true because “*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men*” (**II Cor.5:10-11**). Obligation also suggest responsibility, accountability, and liability. Before the judgment seat of Christ the books of law under which we lived will be opened, and also the book of life in which are recorded all of our life’s works (**Rev.20:12**). Since the Lord built His church for those needing to be saved, and purchased this body with His precious blood, all shall answer for the way they have discharged their obligation to His church (**Acts 2:38-41; Matt.16:18-19; Acts 20:28**). Let us never forget that we cannot be saved just anywhere we may feel is right, but that He only promises to save those in His body (**Eph.1:22-23; 5:23**). We will be tested in that last great day concerning our love for His kingdom or church. Some of the questions to be answered will be:

1. Did we by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism for the remission of sins, enter into Christ where salvation is found and eternity promised? (**Jn.8:24; Lk.13:3,5; Matt.10:32-33; Mk.16:15-16**).
2. Did we love the church for which Jesus died above all else in the world, giving it our time, interest, and loyalty to the spread of the Gospel? (**Eph.5:25**).
3. Did we give the church first place in our lives? (**Matt.6:33**). Does our family recognize that we have loved the church of Christ above our pleasure, livelihood, school work, and family? (Matt.10:37).
4. Did we attend all of the services of the church because we love the Lord, and are grateful for His love? (**Jn.3:16; Heb.10:25**).
5. Did we put away sin from our lives, and live an upright, honest, and clean lives in the Lord’s service? (**Rom.12:1-2; Tit.2:11-12**).
6. Did we defend the Lord’s church and the Gospel at every opportunity? (**Jude 3; Phil.1:17; Gal.2:4-5**).
7. Did we pray for the church of Christ out of our love for the body of Christ, His bride? (**I Thess.5:17; Eph.6:18**).
8. Did we use our talents to the fullest of our ability and opportunity, in the advancement of Truth? (**Matt.25:14-30; Jn.8:31-32**).
9. Did we take seriously the command of our Lord to go into all of the world preaching the Gospel, either carrying it ourselves and by supporting others to go and preach? (**Mk.16:15-16**).
10. Did we as good stewards of God, use the blessings given us by God to generously support the church of Christ with our financial support? (**I Cor.16:1-2; II Cor.9:6-7**).

Are we meeting our obligations to the Lord?