



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 10, 2008

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

Elders:

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Omer Collins
Albert Griffin

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Roger Carter
Don Chandler
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Brad Tate, B.A., M.A.,
D.MIN

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 am

Email:

rockwdcc@earthlink.net

1-800 MARRY ME

It fits. I do not know if this is an actual number you can call, but it has the right amount of digits. It may work. Does it sound farfetched? I used to think so. Until last week, I heard a preacher friend of mine say that while he was listening to the radio in his car, he heard the latest OnStar commercial. OnStar is a service provided by General Motors by way of global positioning. They help motorists with any problems they may have while in their car. Their website explains –“OnStar is the in-vehicle safety and security system created to help protect you and your family on the road.”

In their commercials, they use an actual recording of a request they have fulfilled from a motorist. This has included everything from locking the keys in the car to a woman who is in labor following an automobile accident. But the latest commercial is something different all together. A man uses his OnStar service because his daughter is at the church, ready to marry, but the preacher did not show up. So he asked for help from his car. Believe it or not, the OnStar agent connected him with a local preacher who was willing to show up and marry the couple on the spot. The commercial ends with the father of the bride thanking the agent for saving the wedding.

Is it just me, or have we become a people of digression. I think that it is important for us to think about big decisions. Let me explain. In Romans 7, Paul compared the marriage relationship with a Christian's relationship and being married to Christ. As in marriage, it is supposed to be a relationship that is sustained until death. This is not a relationship of convenience. It is a bond of love, sacrifice, submission, and selfishness. Baptism is often made to be too convenient. We think or feel that we have to wait until a service in order to respond. I should not be the first to say this, but as a preacher, I do not care where, when, or how I baptize an individual. If it is 2 A.M. in a pond and I can get you fully submerged under water, then so be it; it will happen. If you come by the building and I am here, and you say, “Brad, I have been thinking, and I am ready to be baptized,” then you will not hear me say, “Let's wait until Wednesday night or Sunday.” I will take you immediately because this is serious and your soul is lost as I speak the words to you, “Let's go and I will baptize you.” We need to get back to doing things the way the first Christians did them. We need to consider that being in a society of convenience may lead to us being a church that just does not care about lost souls and all we care about is whether or not the preacher, elders, or deacons are doing their job.

True commitment in relationships is measured by the sacrifice one is willing to make in order to maintain them. Getting an understanding of this when one is already in the middle of the process is not ideal. Marriage between a man and woman is the most important human relationship one can have in this lifetime. It is not to be taken lightly. Marriage between a person and Christ

is the most important spiritual relationship a person can have, period. Let us not dial up. Let us take this seriously.

“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”

(Romans 7:4)

Begging the immediate attention God deserves,
Brad

A FRIEND LOVES AT ALL TIMES

I have always been blessed with wonderful friends. The greatest of which is my beautiful wife, Jamie, who honestly is my true companion. Many people joke about having the “perfect marriage,” but I say it without blinking an eye and in all seriousness. I even have a friend, Brint Rice, my first cousin not removed, who joins me in the practice of replacing one another’s names with the title, “buddy.” Good friends are a great blessing from God. *“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion” (Ecclesiastes 4:9).* Here are some helpful things I’ve learned about friends.

“A man who has friends must himself be friendly” (Proverbs 18:24). In order to have friends you must be a friend. What does the Bible say is involved in being a TRUE friend? *“A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17).* A true friend is always a friend, not just when it is easy to be one. It is written, *“Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts” (Proverbs 19:6).* It’s not always an easy task to be a true friend.

A true friend (Christian brother/sister) is *“born of adversity.”* They will be there in times of trouble. They are forgiving and willing to make things right if they’ve done wrong or been wronged. *“As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend” (Proverbs 27:17).* When iron sharpens iron, the two pieces grind against one another while parts of both are filed off. A true friend won’t always agree with you, and will, at times, help to remove negative things from your life.

Jesus is the friend who surpasses all others. *“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13).* If you are Jesus’ friend, you must be a friend of His children (**I John 5:1-2**). How effectively are you fulfilling this commandment? What do you need to do to become a TRUE friend...a friend to Jesus (**John 15:14**)...and a friend to others?

Darrell Powell

“HELPING OTHERS IN THEIR TROUBLES LEAVES YOU LITTLE TIME TO WORRY WITH YOUR OWN.”

“GOSSIPS ARE LIKE VACUUM CLEANERS – ALWAYS PICKING UP DIRT.”

“ANY PERSON WHO TELLS MANY ‘LITTLE WHITE LIES’ SOON BECOMES COLOR BLIND.”