



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 9, 2008

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
Rockwood, TN 37854
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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:

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CHOOSING WISELY

“And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15).

As Joshua challenged the Israelites, so are we challenged each moment of each day in choosing the direction our lives will take as we journey through life. There are many roads available to us, some good, many not so good. Our dilemma is to know the difference and choose only the way which will aid us in our quest for a heavenly home. How can we be assured of making the right choices? How can we gain the wisdom necessary to choose the road which will lead us toward heaven? The wise man, Solomon, speaks often of the importance of choosing wisely and of the value of wisdom.

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Proverbs 14:12).

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10).

These are two of many passages in Proverbs concerning wisdom and making “right” choices. None can escape the responsibility of making choices. Decisions must be made daily about many things from how we wear our hair, to what kind of car we drive, to who we will marry. The most important choice we make, and the one which affects all the others, is whether or not we will serve God. Choosing to serve God and to study His Word makes all other decisions less complicated because they will be made in light of what we learn from His word. We then remember the words of Solomon, *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...”*

I read this statement the other day, and it made me think. “In each moment lies a choice which can change the story of your life.” Our quality of life on earth and our destiny after this life is over depend on the choices we make today, in this moment. Let us choose wisely.

*For the wisest decision,
Brad*

WHAT IF THE PREACHER PREACHED WHAT YOU PRACTICE?

“Practice what you preach” is an expression that has probably burned all of us at one time or another. This phrase reminds us that there is sometimes a gap between what we preach and what we sometimes actually practice. This gap between what we preach and what we actually practice is not a new problem in the church. We can see the apostle Paul challenging the people of his day to “practice what they preached.”

”You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, Do not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boasts in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” (Romans 2:21-24).

As it was in the first century, so it is today. The world can see the gap between our preaching and our practice, and it gives them reason to speak evil of us and the God we serve.

There is no question that the gap between our preaching and our practice ought to be closed. But since some brethren evidently refuse to make the move to close the gap, what would happen if our preachers were the ones who moved to close the gap? What if our preachers began preaching what the brethren practice?

How would you react if your preacher stated from the pulpit, “Now we want you to attend worship, but if something comes up....if company drops in....if you’re tired...just stay home, we understand?”

How would you react if your preacher said from the pulpit, “We encourage you to come back Sunday evening and Wednesday evening for Bible study. You know, Bible study is a good thing. But personally, I won’t be there. But it would be good if any of the rest of you wanted to go?”

What if the preacher told you that you don’t need to make an effort to read your Bible, because it is not all that important? If it comes down to choosing between reading the Bible, watching TV, or reading the newspaper – it’s fine to consistently choose TV and the newspaper over the Bible?

Imagine if your preacher said that since you might offend your neighbor if you speak with him about the Bible, just keep what you know to yourself.

Imagine a preacher who would preach that drinking, dancing, immodesty, gambling, indecent movies, swearing, cheating, and lying are all permissible, just so long as we don’t make a habit out of those things.

Well friends, how long would you tolerate a preacher who preached what some of the brethren practice? If we wouldn’t stand for that, then maybe it’s not the preacher, but some brethren that need to move to close the gap between our preaching and our practice.

Steve Higginbotham