



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

February 12, 2012

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Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary
Don Wicks

Minister:

Kirby Hinds

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

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WHO IS WISE?

By Terry R. Townsend

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom” (James 3:13).

Answers to the question, “Who is wise?” vary, depending upon who you ask. But for the most conclusive answer, God’s Word will suffice. In fact, the most definitive answer to the above-cited question can be found in Matthew’s Gospel, chapter two. Therein we read of the wise men from the East who came to Jerusalem seeking Jesus shortly after His birth. Once finding Him, they worshipped Him and gave Him precious gifts (**Matthew 2:1-12**). The actions of these wise men help to answer the proposed question, “Who is wise?”

Those who are wise **seek Jesus (Matthew 1:1)**. These men came seeking the Lord. Wise men today still look upward into the heavens, seeking Him above all else (**Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1-2**). In addition, they allow the light of His Word to lead them (**Psalms 119:105; Proverbs 6:23**).

Those who are wise **tell others about Him (Matthew 2:2-8)**. As these wise men neared their destination, they heralded His birth and the intent for their coming. Wise men today proclaim Him; that is, Christ came to earth, died on the cross, and rose again the third day so that man might be saved! That’s the Good News, and those who are wise will want to tell others about it (**Mark 16:15; Acts 5:20; 18:9**).

Those who are wise **worship Him (Matthew 2:9-11)**. Once finding Him, the wise men fell down and worshipped Him, presenting Him with precious gifts. Likewise, wise men today worship Him, giving Him their very best (**John 4:24**).

Those who are wise **heed His warnings (Matthew 2:12)**. The wise men heeded God’s warning and departed for their country another way. Wise men today heed the warnings of God; that is, they do all that God commands, following the path He subscribes for them (**Matthew 7:13-24; James 1:21**).

Paul, by pen of inspiration, states: *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:15-17).*

“GIVE US A KING”

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king...But the people refused to listen to Samuel, “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations.” **I Samuel 8:4-7, 19-20.**

People are still the same. During Samuel’s leadership, Israel cried out to have a king, so they could be like their neighbors. We call it, “keeping up with the Jones.” We have the desire to see how we measure up to others. We should be more concerned with God’s standards than men.

Even in the church today there is a call to be like other religious groups and to embrace their teaching in order to promote unity. This is called ecumenicalism. Unity is important in the church (**Eph. 4:1-6, 13**), but it should not take a back seat to truth (**Eph. 4:24-25**).

Ecumenicalism is primarily focused in three areas; church leadership, instrumental music, and baptism. These are areas when the church of Christ differs from evangelical denominations.

The most visible focus is instrumental music; however, all are important to be aware of. The movements’ first target is church leadership. Without eroding a strong eldership it is difficult to change music and baptism. Instrumental music is used as a distraction, or a red herring. While we spend time vocally being silent where the Bible is silent, change agents begin watering down the importance of baptism and upsetting the eldership. O to be like them.

Israel had a problem with Samuel being elderly. Their focus had changed from God to their neighbors. This one step led to centuries of calamity for the nation of Israel. We need to learn from their mistakes. Our focus should be on God. Listen to Him, and obey Him.

Ken Williams