



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 17, 2013

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

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Bobby Bear
Kendall Bear
Larry Brackett
Roger Carter
Steve McCreary

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

Email:

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

WHY STUDY GOD'S WORD

Just as we eat three meals a day to sustain our physical bodies, we must also feast on God's word daily to sustain our souls. If we don't we are in danger of losing our souls. God says in **Hosea 4:6**, "*My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.*" People will be lost because they did not care enough to read and study God's instruction book on how to go to Heaven.

Paul says in **II Thessalonians 2:10** that people will be lost "*because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*" Satan wants to distract us with the cares and deceits of this world. He does not want us to read and study our Bible every day. He knows that we become weak and vulnerable when we fail to study. Our strongest defense is a shield of faith. How do we obtain that shield of faith to protect us? **Romans 10:17** says, "*So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*" The more we study the word of God the stronger our faith will be. If we want to protect ourselves against Satan we must have a strong faith.

In years past we in the churches of Christ were known as "walking Bibles" because brethren then studied their Bibles. But sad to say, this is no longer true because we have failed to study God's word, as we should. But what happens when we fail to study God's word and become spiritually starved? **II Peter 3:16** says that those who are "*untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.*" We cannot understand God's word unless we study it. And because of this Jesus says in **Matthew 15:14**, "*They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a ditch.*"

To keep from wandering around in spiritual darkness, let's study God's word so that "*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*" (**Psalms 119:105**). Let's not endanger our souls by a lack of study of God's word. Let's take time to study it daily.

Ken Boatwright

“CONSIDER YOURSELF WARNED”

Life is filled with warning signs like, Bridge Out Ahead...Poison...Do Not Operate Machinery After Taking This Medication...Rip Currents...Soft Shoulders...Road Narrows...Do Not Pass...Detour...Travel Advisory...etc. We are wise to heed them. Have you ever considered the four places God placed a “Be Not Deceived” warning sign in the New Testament? Jesus warned, *“Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name...”* (**Luke 21:8**). It is ironic that this warning about false teachers was given to four disciples whom we think could never be deceived – Peter, Andrew, James and John. Now, if those men who had travelled with Him for three-and-a-half years could be deceived, shouldn’t we “Consider Yourself Warned?”

The second time the expression is found in the New Testament is in **I Corinthians 6:9**, *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, not thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”* In an age of increasing immorality, America should heed this warning sign from God. “Consider Yourself Warned.”

In the same letter, Paul gives the “Be Not Deceived” warning the third time. *“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits”* (**I Corinthians 15:33**). We often give this warning about how evil companions corrupt good morals to young people, but older ones need to heed it just as much. If you think that your ungodly friends could never pull you down, *you have already been deceived!* “Consider Yourself Warned.”

The fourth time the expression is found is in **Galatians 6:7-8**. *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”* Every person is either sowing to the Spirit or he is sowing to the flesh. Your life is either focused on this world and all of its deceptive appeal, or it’s focused on your spiritual side. If you think you can live in both of these worlds at the same time, you have already ignored the heavenly danger sign.

Wise individuals read and heed the warning signs. Wiser individuals read and heed heavenly ones. Are you wise?

Dan Jenkins