



# Rockwood Church of Christ

## The Proclaimer

Aug 14, 2022

P.O. Box 416  
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Rockwood, TN 37854  
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**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

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Rockwoodchurchofchrist.com

## Emptying the Ocean

When I was a young preacher student at International Bible College, now known as Heritage Christian University, I had the great privilege of sitting at the feet of a man by the name of Basil Overton. Brother Overton was in his mid-sixties and had been preaching since he was 14. He had a particular interest in stories about mules, but he was full of tales and illustrations of all kinds.

One day when he was sharing some of his anecdotes of collected wisdom, he said something like this to a classroom full of first semester preacher boys, *“Young men, you will learn a lot about the Bible while you are in school, but know this: trying to learn everything there is to know about the Bible is like trying to empty the ocean with a teaspoon. Every time you dip it in, you will take something away, but you are never going to get it all.”*

Nearly thirty years later, having spent no small amount of time in Bible study myself, I can confidently say that Brother Overton was right. The vast riches of God’s Holy Written Word are incomprehensible. A lifetime simply is not long enough to be able to reach the bottom of God’s wisdom.

Brother Overton also used the following to illustrate the differences common among Christians in their personal Bible study habits: *“Some Christians are like minnows, they never leave the shallows. Some Christians are like whales, they dive deep.”* He then said, *“Young men...be whales!”*

Now, just in case you haven’t noticed, most Christians seem content with being a minnow in the oceans of God’s Word, and believe it or not, this is perhaps the greatest threat the Lord’s church faces today. Brethren, as the New Testament writers implored on numerous occasions, we need to graduate from milk and get to the meat. We need to build something on the foundation of fundamental principles of God’s Word.

The water is deeper than most of us think, so grab your teaspoon little minnow and start diving with the whales! It is time to grow up in the Lord and in the wisdom of His Word.

Joel Shelton  
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# Curiosity About the Bible

Curiosity is an exciting aspect of life. Parents love to see their children explore and discover their world. Likewise, teachers enjoy seeing students come to class with curiosity and a hunger for learning. Curiosity about the Bible is expected and natural as well. Who can help but be moved to seek answers to questions about a book that claims to be “*God-breathed*” (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)?

As is the case with curiosity in general, curiosity about the Bible has healthy and unhealthy aspects. Let’s think about those for just a few minutes.

## Healthy curiosity about the Bible...

- Can lead us to read the Bible, to seek to know the will and mind of God (**Isaiah 55:8, 9; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Philippians 2:5**). A person who wants to follow God will first want to know what God is like, and then discover how that desire to follow him can be fulfilled.
- Can lead us to dig deeper, to search the scriptures (**John 5:39; Acts 17:11**). The misguided Jewish leaders had made a practice of studying the scriptures, but failed to comprehend that the scriptures were properly pointing them to Jesus (**John 5:39; Galatians 3:24**). By contrast the Jewish people of Berea were stimulated by the preaching of Paul to compare his message with the scriptures they knew and loved (**Acts 17:11**) and see him as the mediator of a better and new covenant (**Hebrews 8:6, 13**).

## Unhealthy curiosity about the Bible...

- Can lead us to be distracted from the important things God wants us to know. God’s mind is so deep that we cannot know or comprehend him completely (**Romans 11:33**). He has not revealed everything to us, and we would not be able to handle it if he did. If we obsess over every question and curiosity about things he has not revealed, we may neglect the important things (**Matthew 23:3**). We may also fail to fulfill the great commission if we are so consumed with questions.
- Can lead to the destruction of our souls. We walk by faith, not by sight (**2 Corinthians 5:7**), but that does not mean we cannot know some things and be assured of them. Some people have become so obsessed with questions, that they have twisted the scriptures and have left God (**2 Peter 3:16**).

*“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law”* (**Deuteronomy 29:29**).

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