



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

December 31, 2017

REVIEW, REFLECT, RESET

Before we plan for 2018, can we look back at 2017? We apply this strategy with most anything in our lives. It would behoove us to apply this thinking with our spiritual lives as well.

LET'S REVIEW! I Corinthians 10:12-13 says, *"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."* We should be mindful of the world when it comes to entertainment, our relationships, our goals, and anything that competes for space in our lives. Looking back, have we given in to temptation and moved God to second place?

LET'S REFLECT! I John 2:15-17 says, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever."* What do we see when we turnaround and replay 2017? Did our goals, our desires, and ambitions cloud our walk with Christ?

LET'S RESET! Titus 1:2 says *"in hope of eternal life which God who cannot lie, promised before time began."* We can't change what happens next! Summarizing our year should cause us to examine our life. God has promised us eternal life. Are we going to allow our past choices to diminish our eternal hope?

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Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:30 pm

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THE HALF HAS NOT BEEN TOLD

“..And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard. How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom. Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness” (I Kings 10:7-9).

The Queen of Sheba went to the court of King Solomon to see the truth for herself. She had heard the stories of the grandeur. She had heard the stories of the wisdom. The record in **I Kings** said that she went with all pomp and ceremony to “test” Solomon with “difficult questions.” She went to see the great king. He was everything she had heard and more. The half of Solomon’s greatness had not even been told. Now she believed. Now she worshipped the Lord God.

Scribes and Pharisees came to see Jesus and asked for another sign so they could believe that He was indeed from God. Jesus responded that they would have no additional signs save that of Jonah. He was alluding to His own death and resurrection. Then He told them that examples of old would condemn them at judgment. *“The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here” (Matthew 12:44).* The statement Jesus makes tells us that the scribes and Pharisees had seen someone much greater than the Queen of Sheba had seen. They had seen wonders more amazing than those the Queen of Sheba had seen.

Jesus is a greater man than Solomon. The author of Hebrews said Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory. He is the exact representation of God’s nature. Jesus supports all things with the word of His power. He made purification for sins and now is at the right hand of God. Because of all these things, He is much greater than any angel and has a much greater name, Son (**Hebrews 1:3-5**). Jesus is worthy of more honor than Moses, having built a house that is greater than the one Moses built (**Hebrews 3:3**).

Jesus is a greater king than Solomon. Solomon began great. Already wise, Solomon asked God for wisdom over wealth and power. God blessed him with greater wisdom and the greatest wealth and power. Solomon did not remain wise. In later years, Solomon became foolish. The grandeur of his kingdom was lost in the next generations. Jesus is the great eternal King. He overcomes all enemies. Jesus is Lord of lords and King of kings. Those who are His subjects are called chosen and faithful (**Revelation 17:14**). Again, praising the Son, the Hebrew writer said, *“You throne, O God, is forever and ever, And the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom.” (Hebrews 1:8).* The justice, the truth, the righteousness of the Kingdom of the Lord will never fade.

The Queen of Sheba confessed, *“the half has not been told.”* Her words must continue today. The half about our Lord has not been told. Truly His grandeur has not been seen. How blessed are we all to be in the kingdom of our Lord. How blessed we are to hear His wisdom. How blessed are we all to set at His table.

Gerald Elliott