



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 9, 2014

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 I READ SCRIPTURE

I read the books of Moses (Genesis - Deuteronomy) to master, from the historical narrative materials, the timeless models of life with God and to learn from the priestly materials a basic sense of what it means to be holy, forgiven, and in communion with God.

I read the Psalms to learn how to respond to God with the full range of my faith and feelings.

I read the Old Testament narratives to understand how God - who is always the hero of these stories - relates to humans as they really are elusive, complex, culturally-conditioned, unpredictable, and inconsistent.

I read the wisdom books (Proverbs, Ecclesiastes) to learn the arts of godly living - how to live sensibly and well in life as it really is.

I read the prophets to be inspired by God's vision for a moral and just society that one day will fill the earth and to be amazed as I see God's spoken word take concrete form when predications of future events come to pass in minute detail.

I read the Gospels (Matthew - John) to see God in His definitive manifestation of Himself in the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth and to respond to Him by growing in ways of life-changing and world-changing discipleship.

I read the book of Acts to enter consciously and confidently into the never-ending story of the triumphant, joyful, spiritual expansion of the Gospel throughout the world.

I read the Epistles to consider carefully and in context these Spirit-given studies so that I might acquire skill in thinking and making decisions with "the mind of Christ" and, thereby, contribute to the good news about God by spreading it everywhere.

I read Revelation to realize that the triumph of Christ, the Lion who acts like a Lamb, is certain - regardless of the apparent power of Rome or any other evil rival for the hearts and minds of men.

I read all of Scripture to discover and enter into the real story of my life that is a part of the story of God who is in loving pursuit of every man in order to draw him or her to Him and build an intimate relationship with that person

By Dale Pauls
Via Glenn Hitchcock's Truth for Today

CREATION OR PHILOSOPHY?

One of the most important warnings we have in the New Testament is to be on guard against man-made philosophies. Paul warns the brethren at Colosse, *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ”* (**Colossians 2:8**). The word philosophy comes from two Greek words. It is a composite of the Greek word for love and the Greek word for wisdom. So, the word means lovers of wisdom. However, James warns us that there is wisdom that *“...does not descend from above, but is earthly...”* (**3:15**). If we look simply to the event of creation, recorded in **Genesis 1**, we can debunk several popular philosophies. Let’s note a few examples:

Atheism – The philosophy that there is no God. *“In the beginning God...”* (**Genesis 1:1**).

Polytheism – The philosophy that there are multiple gods (popular in many cultures around the world). Again, *“in the beginning God...”* (**Genesis 1:1**).

Pantheism – The philosophy that God is present in everything (i.e. matter). This too is popular in many cultures around the world. If we again look at **Genesis 1:1**, *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”*.

Naturalism – The philosophy that matter is the only eternal, humans are the product of natural process, and there is no outside or supernatural force acting upon the universe. Again we note, *“In the beginning God created...”* (**Genesis 1:1**).

Materialism – The philosophy that physical matter is all that exists. It’s the denial of anything spiritual (God, a spiritual realm, the soul). If we look to **Genesis 1**, we see man being made in the “image” and “likeness” of God (**1:26**). This was not said of the animals, but was the designation of an eternal soul given to man.

Evolution – The philosophy that the material universe evolved from a single living cell and that all life, including human life, was the product of this single living organism. The creation account tells us that God created the animal kingdom and humans “according to its kind.” (In fact, the phrase is used nearly a dozen times in **Genesis 1**).

If you accept the source, authenticity, and authority of the Bible (**II Timothy 3:16**), then it’s amazing how many popular philosophies of man are defeated by the first few verses of the Bible.

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (**Hebrews 3:4**).

Joe Williams