



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

November 14, 2021

P.O. Box 416
129 S. Chamberlain Ave.
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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

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Wisdom is Obeying God

Jonah heard the call of the Lord. “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me” (**Jonah 1:2**). Jonah, however, made an executive decision to ignore those clear instructions. By doing so he became one of the premier Biblical examples of what not to do. One storm and one large fish later we see how unwise it is to ignore the command of God, thinking we can outrun or outsmart Him. We can’t. It’s foolish to try.

Wisdom comes to a different conclusion regarding following the Word of the Lord. “Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man” (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**). We all have some decisions to make when we hear from God, which we do every time we open up His Word. Are God’s commands meant to be a burden, or are they given out of love? I think God’s character answers that one. Also, are we wiser than God, thinking that we can come up with a better way to go? That one is also not difficult if we just take a moment to think about it. And do we believe, by faith, that there is reward for those servants who obey the Lord’s call? The Bible clearly says “yes.” Do you believe it?

I encourage you to be wise. Have the vision to see where the road you’re on leads. If the destination is a smelly fish stomach you are certainly on the wrong road. Wisdom knows better. Wisdom knows “his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world” (**1 John 5:3-4**). Can’t you see that obeying God now is better than obeying Him later (or not at all)? Can’t you see that setting aside your objections and your own agendas is the best thing for you? Trust and obey friends. There is no other wise way.

Doug Wells
Camden Avenue church of Christ
Parkersburg, WV

The Bible Is Right!

Willie Cato's book, "*His Hand and His Heart*," is about the wit and wisdom, dedication and sacrifice of the beloved Marshall Keeble. "*Brother Keeble*," as he was affectionately known, was one of the greatest preachers of the 20th century. I highly recommend that you read about this great servant of God, listen to his sermons, and learn from his life. In life this giant of a little man touched thousands and, although gone from us for many years, still touches lives today. Like Abel, "*he being dead still speaks*" (**Hebrews 11:4**).

Keeble's preaching was simply, sincere, powerful, and practical. He believed in God. He lived a devoted life. He sacrificed and endured much. He loved the truth, and he loved the souls of men. He preached from the heart and thousands responded to the gospel! Keeble would often say, "*The Bible is right! You can leave this meeting and go home, but the Bible is right! You can fuss at Keeble all night, but the Bible is right! All men can die and go to hell, but the Bible is still right!*"

Is it not strange how people react to the Word of God? When Paul preached at Athens, his message drew different responses. "*And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, 'We will hear you again on this matter.' So Paul departed from among them. However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them*" (**Acts 17:32-34**).

People react differently to the truth today. Some become angry. Some shrug off the saving message of the gospel. Some rejoice and receive it. One man might say, "*I didn't get a thing out of that message.*" Another might say, "*That message really helped me.*"

Keeble was right! Regardless of how people react to it, "*the Bible is right!*" It is the inspired message of God (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). It will be the standard by which we are judged (**1 John 12:48**). We can reject it, neglect it or interpret it (a fancy way of saying that we can change God's Word to fit our lives instead of changing our lives to fit it), but as Keeble said, "*the Bible is right!*"

We must hear the Word! We must believe the Word! We must obey the Word! We must proclaim the Word! We must defend the Word! Why? Because "*the Bible is right!*" Keeble knew it and so do we!

Dwight Fuqua
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