



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 7, 2014

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

Dana Carter
Kenneth Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

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

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LESSONS FROM A FORMER PRESIDENT

John Quincy Adams may have held more important offices than anyone in the history of the United States. He served with distinction not only as the president and secretary of state but also as a senator, congressman, and an ambassador to major European leaders. He also played several key roles in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the events leading up to the Civil War. However, at the age of 70, he wrote, "My whole life has been a succession of disappointments. I can scarcely recollect a single instance of success in anything that I ever undertook."

I think there are a couple of things we can learn from the feelings of our sixth president. First, we should not sell ourselves short. No matter who you are, as a Christian, you play an important role in the history of humanity, and you can impact eternity by the simplest of things. The Bible reminds us to "comfort the fainthearted" and "uphold the weak" (**I Thessalonians 5:14**). We never know when something as simple as a visit, a card, a phone call, a shoulder to cry on, an ear to listen, or a simple kind word can help someone hold on who was on the verge of giving up. A simple invitation to service on Sunday or Wednesday or to a gospel meeting or a VBS could be the difference in someone's eternal destiny. Never underestimate your role in God's eternal plan to redeem mankind (**Ephesians 3:8-11; 4:16**).

The other thing we can learn from Adams is that unless we pursue things that are spiritual in nature, our lives can seem hollow and meaningless. Here was a man who had achieved the highest and most prestigious position in the United States, arguably in the entire world. He was a man who would have his secular successes displayed in the pages of American history for generations. However, he seemed to be lamenting that his life was disappointing and unfulfilling. The true lesson is that fulfillment comes not from a life of worldly achievement but from a life submitted and committed to the will of God.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all (**Ecclesiastes 12:13**).

Joe Williams

WHAT IS YOUR CHARACTER MORE LIKE?

“He who speaks truth tells what is right, but a false witness, deceit. There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. Truthful lips will be established forever, but a lying tongue is only for a moment. Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but counselors of peace have joy. No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal faithfully are His delight” (Proverbs 12:17-22).

There are three characteristics of fools and three characteristics of the wise described in this proverb. The first characteristic is about the reaction of a person. A fool reacts thoughtlessly while a wise person reacts with patience. When real or imagined insults are hurled at you, the wisdom of God teaches patience as the appropriate reaction, not a quick-tempered blowup.

The second characteristic has to do with trustworthiness. A fool is a liar. There are no levels of lies mentioned in the Bible as people often dismiss some things as little white lies. That is ridiculous. You either tell the truth, or you do not. Any middle ground is cultivated by Satan. The wise on the other hand, speak truthfully. Even when this truth hurts. This does not give permission to go speak hastily and cruelly to people and sweep your attitude under the rug because you say, “It’s the truth.” As Christians we have to carry ourselves in a wise manner and that means *“speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15)*. We will turn people away from the gospel’s message in a hurry if we speak the truth in hate. We only got it halfway right. This does not mean to beat around the truth, but show it with the love that Christ showed the lost in His day.

The third characteristic has to do with whom one looks out for. The fool looks out only for himself deceiving to try and get his way. This only promises trouble for the fool. The wise look out for others and good is returned to them. Pay attention to your reactions, check your trustworthiness, and note who you are looking out for. **Casey McDonald**