

# THE ROCK HILL HERALD

*Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ*



## The Rock Hill church of Christ

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### Worship Times:

- Bible Class — 9:00AM
- Sunday Worship — 10:00AM
- Sunday PM Worship — 6:00PM
- Wednesday Bible study — 7:00PM

### Elders:

- Jim Boles
- Charles Haley

### Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Doug Jones
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

### Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

## Christ's Authority in the Church

The inspired writer tells us that according to God, "when the fullness of the time was come" **Galatians 4:4**, He would bring together the heavenly and the earthly to form a unique association of one-to-the-other. Furthermore, He tells us that this association would be 'in Christ Jesus' **Ephesians 1:10** that Christ was to be the common denominator between heaven and earth. Now, think about what Jesus told Peter in **Matthew 16:18-19** "upon this rock (of truth), I will build my church, and give to you the keys to the kingdom."

When Jesus told Peter of the things to come, he mentioned both the church and the kingdom. The Church can be considered an extension of the "kingdom of heaven" where God resides and rules. You cannot have a kingdom without a King. God is King of the universe and has given Jesus power and authority over the Church **Colossians 1:18**. Let's look at **Ephesians 1: 20-21** where Paul says the power of God, "is wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. Far above all principality, and power, and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in the world to come:

In **Matthew 28:18**, Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." It confirms the mystery of God to intervene with a plan that will separate the "sheep from the goats". It is "the bringing in of a better hope" according to **Hebrews 7:19**. It is the fulfillment of the plan of God to extend the heavenly kingdom to the earth and place His only begotten Son at its head! Jesus completed the work, and came into "His Glory" according to **Luke 24:26**.

In the book of John, Jesus give us greater insight. In **John 16:7**, Jesus tells of another aspect of the mystery when he says, "it is expedient that I go away; for if I go not away, the comforter will not come unto you." We recognize from **John 14: 16 & 17** that this comforter is the Holy Spirit, whose responsibility it was to provide for Peter and the Apostles "the keys to the Kingdom" and those things which will be "bound and loosed" according to **Matthew 16:18-19**.

So where does this put the Church? If we look back to **Ephesians 1:22-23**, Jesus is identified as "the head over all things to the Church...which is His body". More to Come.

Doug Jones

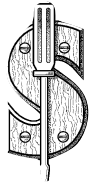
# Family News

*"For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:18,19*

If you are a visitor to our church, welcome! If you have questions, we welcome them; please do not hesitate to ask Park Linscomb, our minister (the tall guy) or any other church member.

## N . E . W . S .

**MONDAY'S STORM** left us with quite a mess to clean up. Water was high enough in our courtyard that it flowed under the doors and through the weep holes in the brick walls. A lot of the carpet and wainscoting was soaked. ServPro was called in to undo a lot of it. We'll need to put new wainscoting up and a new carpet is being contemplated. More bad news, we have no flood insurance, so we have to pay the bill. So this morning's worship service will be a little more rustic than usual and it is likely that we won't be able to broadcast our services until at least next



### Building Repair Fund

Sunday. Prayers and perhaps a little extra financial help would certainly be appreciated.

**LEADERSHIP MEETING IS THIS SUNDAY.** All elders, deacons, and the preacher are scheduled to meet this afternoon at 4PM.

### DID YOU KNOW NEXT SUNDAY IS EASTER?

While Christians are supposed to celebrate Christ's rising from the dead every Sunday, much of the rest of the world look to this Sunday as one of the two times they'll seriously consider going to church. Invite a friend to come.



**APRIL'S MEN'S BREAKFAST** has been postponed until next month, due to the many other activities going on in the month of April.

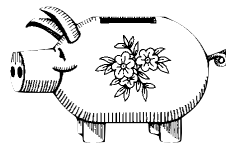
**THE LADIES' CLASS** meets in the fellowship hall each Tuesday at 10am. Don't forget; come enjoy the Bible study, discussion, fellowship, laughter, prayer, and lunch.

**OUR LADIES' "SPRING FLING"** is coming up on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited. The theme will be "What's in Your Purse?" Jessica Stelzer will be the speaker and the cost is \$20 per person (you can give your money to either Nancy or Dianne)! All the ladies are invited. It's always a lot of fun for our sisters; put it on your calendar and plan to come.



**WE HAD A GREAT** work day yesterday. Yard work and emergency auditorium work was accomplished. Thanks to all who showed up to lend a hand!

**GIVING...**We can now give online (rhcoc.org), by mail (PO Box 2301, Frisco TX 75034), or of course in person at worship assembly.



### PRAYER LISTS...

#### Giving Thanks...

- Trelitha Bryant has been able to worship with us for a couple of weeks now.

#### NEW REQUESTS...

##### Prayers needed

- Trudy R.'s jaw pain

- Margret T. as she spends a few weeks with her son David in Stephenville TX.
- Please pray for Johnny Vaz's mother, Victoria Vaz.
- Norma Bautista cataract surgeries.
- Ora Holt
- Our continued search for a part-time youth minister
- Doug Jones' brother, Don Jones, is suffering with cancer

#### Remember these often:

- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our elders, deacons, and preacher

#### Long Term Requests

- Lori Cloud's father: cognitive confusion
- The Zapata's teenage friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Carol P.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Bonnie B.
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon
- Cheryl F.
- Ann S.

#### READ-THE-BIBLE-THROUGH-IN-A-YEAR SCHEDULE

- Apr 10, 2 Sam 12-13
- Apr 11, 2 Sam 14-15
- Apr 12, 2 Sam 16-17
- Apr 13, 2 Sam 18-19
- Apr 14, 2 Sam 20-22
- Apr 15, 2 Sam 23-24
- Apr 16, 1 Kgs 1
- Apr 17, 1 Kgs 2-3

# A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

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## Stained Glass Words — "Mercy"

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Over the last few weeks we've been looking at biblical words that aren't regularly used in everyday conversation and which therefore sometimes cause folks a little difficulty, when they run across them in the Bible. One such word is mercy.

Mercy is used occasionally in normal conversation, but ordinarily it has to do with asking someone to stop hurting us — there's even a child's game played between boys to see who can stand the most pain. But this isn't the biblical meaning.

Biblically speaking mercy can best be understood through its opposite, justice. Essentially, justice is about giving someone what they deserve in either a negative or positive way. In a legal setting justice is making sure that a criminal is being punished according to the law; or that an innocent person is either not punished or getting in a positive way what he deserves. It can also be used in an economic setting, where a person is getting paid what they have earned.

How does that help us understand mercy? Mercy is giving someone something that they didn't deserve. In a legal sense it could mean taking the circumstances of the crime into account and not giving a criminal the full punishment that they deserved — perhaps not punishing them at all. In an economic setting an example of mercy would be giving something good to someone that they couldn't or didn't earn.

And this is sense that the Bible uses the word mercy, giving something to someone that they didn't earn or not giving someone a punishment that they did "earn".

For example, we benefit from God's grace and mercy in a physical way everyday — whether

health, abilities, family, opportunities, necessities of life, and even pleasant things — we have done nothing to earn these things.

But much more important than physical mercies, on the spiritual plane our merciful God, seeing our condemnation for sins that we committed, chose to show us mercy rather than giving us what we deserved, Hell. This mercy, however wasn't injustice, it didn't leave justice unaddressed. Some religious systems have their so-called god simply choosing not to punish some of their worshippers and therefore leaving sin and evil unpunished — and those who were harmed by the sin and evil unavenged, victims of yet another

injustice. Instead, our merciful God chose to place the punishment for the sins and evil of mankind upon the one volunteer who could

accomplish this great mercy, His Son, Jesus Christ.

*But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)*

So we are no longer facing the condemnation that we deserve, but because of faith (biblically defined) in Jesus, we are "let off the hook" for our spiritual crimes against God of rebellion, enmity, blasphemy, and much more. And even more than not getting zapped, we are given Heaven instead. We are the gobsmacked beneficiaries of God's great mercy.

And, by the way, we are ourselves taught to also be merciful toward others. We live in a hardbitten world to whom mercy is a foreign thing, but Christians, who serve a merciful God, need to be different, be holy (merciful) because He is holy (merciful), and to show similar mercy to others.

Park Linscomb

