

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



THE PATH 'WE' TAKE

Much of what we talk about in these brief lessons has to do with the level of obedience that is required to be considered *'faithful'* before God. Several verses come to mind that would help us with this endeavor, not the least of which is ***II Timothy 2:15*** that instructs us to "study" for the sake of accuracy, and self evaluation: ***II Peter 1:10*** to help make our choice to serve more certain: ***II Peter 3:18*** encourages us to grow in both "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour." We should learn that God does not consider us a "True Worshipper" mentioned in ***John 4:23*** if we are casual regarding our spirituality which includes Church worship ***Hebrews 10:23-26***: Furthermore, we cannot be pleasing before God if we do not hold the same moral standard that He does according to ***II Peter 1:4-8***.

For those who wish to minimize the requirement of what God has given to us in His Holy and Devine Word, I would like for you to consider two verses from the New Testament that God gave to us. The first has to do with access to the Body of Christ, located in ***Matthew 7: 13-14***. The second comes from the same discourse in ***verses 21-23***.

Take note of ***verse 13 and 14***, where Jesus taught, "enter in at the straight gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." It is important that we place the proper emphasis on the meaning of this verse. The strait gate and narrow way does not necessarily describe a path that is difficult. What it does mean, however, is that the strait gate and the narrow way are very specific. The contrast of ***Matthew 7:13-14*** is made between the broad way and the narrow way; Notice, "broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." This, as opposed to the narrow way, "which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Jesus presents this as a statement of fact. He knows the hearts of men; He knows the history of man's disbelief. Jesus understands that it is the nature of humanity to be self sufficient, and to place their confidence in their own path rather than the pathway of righteousness.

This is confirmed in ***Acts 4:12*** that tells us "there is none other name given among men whereby we must be saved." ***John 14:6*** confirms also by saying, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me." Be careful of the Path We Take.

Doug Jones

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

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 .

THE LEADERSHIP MEETING is this Sunday at 4pm

CLEVE STAFFORD, the preacher in Pittsfield MA, the church where we'll be sending a mission team, will be preaching for us on August 28. Be sure and be here and get to know him.

A HOMECOMING EVENT in October of this year. Details are coming soon.

OUR USUAL MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING is now quarterly. Our next singing Wednesday will be August 31.

A BABY SHOWER for Julianna Saturday, September 10th. A sign up sheet for the ladies can be found in the back of the auditorium.

CHUCK TOOLEY has been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a blood cancer that has some promising treatments. Pray for Chuck.

THE PITTSFIELD MA MISSION EFFORT: Several will be helping in a Gospel meeting this fall, Sept. 25-28. The group that is planning on going includes Charles, Park, Tom and Nancy Roberts, Hugh and Trudi Ruebush, Linda Stinnett and Elizabeth Hopkins. The trip will Sept 21-29. Park will be preaching on the subject of "Next", about the afterlife. Please pray for fruitful efforts.

LADIES' ACTIVITIES

- The last "Keep in touch" ladies' meeting will be Aug. 23 at 10AM. Dianne will do a "Neema Baby Rescue Home" presentation. We'll have lunch afterwards. All the ladies are invited.
- The fall ladies' Bible class will be the following Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 10AM. Make plans to be there for a great time of learning God's will and having fellowship.

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



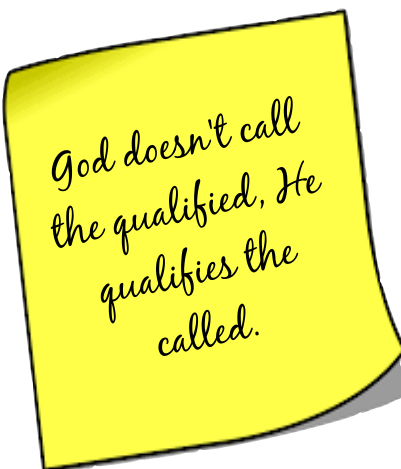
PRAYER LISTS...

Thanks to God

- Hugh and Trudy are back from AZ

Prayers needed

- Betty Shaw, Doug's sister. Very ill, now in hospice
- Kim Brackeen lost her good friend, Tammy Meyer
- Jessica Stelzer is quite sick with



COVID

- Dianna C.'s cancer marker have gone up
- Susie C. and infected ears
- Recovery from eye surgery for Ora Holt
- Isela H.'s Jeff Barnett with stage 4 brain cancer.

Remember these often:

- Please pray for Johnny Vaz's mother, Victoria Vaz.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- Our continued search for a part-time youth minister
- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our congregational leaders

Long Term Requests

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

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

- Aug 21, Jer 45-48
- Aug 22, Jer 49-50
- Aug 23, Jer 51-52
- Aug 24, Lam 1-2
- Aug 25, Lam 3-5
- Aug 26, Ezekiel 1-4
- Aug 27, Ezekiel 5-8
- Aug 28, Ezekiel 9-12

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.

Lessons From Revelation

The book of Revelation is considered by many to be the most confusing and even scary book of the Bible. But while there are plenty of mysteries (predictions that are only vaguely and ambiguously revealed), the book is one that should fortify and encourage every Christian. Here are some of the major lessons to learn from it.

God is in control — Although the world looks like a chaotic mess God remains in control of the course of history, still answers our prayers, still provides for His people, and still turns bad situations into good in the end. The Lord has indeed chosen to allow men free will, but He is still firmly and irrevocably in control in powerful ways that we can only begin to imagine— His plans *cannot* be thwarted, period.

Satan loses in the end — Time and again in Revelation, the defeat of Satan is told and retold. He is crushed, his agents are defeated, his followers are defeated, his powers are stripped, his baubles are destroyed, and he and his followers are thrown into the lake of fire. In the most complete way possible, his destiny is "carved in stone", a done deal. The only thing to be determined is whether we'll follow him to certain defeat or follow the Lord to certain victory.

Things aren't always the way they look — It's easy to look enviously at the success and the ease of those who live disobediently. It's easy to suffer the difficulty of discipleship and godly living and wonder whether or not we've made the right choice. Too often, it looks like the bad guys are winning big, and the good guys are seriously taking it on the chin. But when things look this way, it's imperative to remember that this is just the way things look—that's not how they really are.

Faithfulness is required; it is possible to fall; we must overcome — Once we've been saved, we can't just lean back in our spiritual easy chairs and relax; it is important to remain awake and faithful as individuals and as congregations. Jesus is clear in Revelation that without faithfulness lampstands are removed and names are taken out of the Book of Life. It is still possible to fall, but we must and we can overcome (see Rev. 2,3).

Satan will continue to try to make us fall to the bitter end — Revelation 12 gives us a condensed look at the long historical struggle between God and Satan, and the bottom line is that he *always* fails against God and

against God's people. But despite the fact that Satan is ultimately defeated in the death and resurrection of Jesus, he has not just "thrown in the towel". Like a psychopathic criminal, trapped without hope of escape, he's determined to take as many of us out, spiritually speaking, as he possibly can. God's victory in the war is *absolutely* assured, but Satan would still love to murder *you* by seducing you to fall.

Bad things happen for different reasons — Some of the "evil" (bad things) in the world is a matter of living in a fallen world: war, disease, death, and natural disasters. Some bad things are a matter of God's sovereign acts meant to call men to repent. Some of it is direct Satanic activity. And some of it, Revelation tells us, is associated with end times. It's hard to tell which is which sometimes, but the key to overcoming these situations is always to be faithful and do right.

Sometimes things get worse, before they get better — The point of Revelation 20, in which Satan is loosed at the end of time, is that things will get worse before they get (much) better. The Lord warns us that sometimes, especially in the end, things will get awfully dark just before the dawn. It's not to scare us, but to fortify us. Think of childbirth or pulling a really painful tooth; so, hang in there—by your fingernails if you must—but hang in there!

Heaven is probably better than advertised. Hell, worse — For centuries Christians have loved reading about and singing about the glories and rest of Heaven—especially in times of troubles. And the fires of Hell, for centuries, have frightened many a sinner to repent. But when the details of these two eternal destinations are examined in Revelation, it becomes clear that "the half has never yet been told", and that when Paul said, (1 Corinthians 2:9) "but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM,"" he wasn't exaggerating.

Rather than fear and retreat from the message of Revelation, we need to know that it has some of the more important messages of encouragement to be found in the whole Bible. Learn them, embrace them, and stay faithful with them.

Park Linscomb

