

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ

WALKING IN THE LIGHT



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
- Doug Jones
- Scott Wallace

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

To be certain of what the Word of God is, let us consider what the Apostle John wrote in **John 1:1**, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” In Verse **14** of that chapter, John writes, “And the Word was made Flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.” It is “the instruction in righteousness” that we so desperately need **2 Timothy 3:16**.

Step back to **Genesis 3**, and think about God’s plan for reconciliation. Everything that God did from the fall of man was to bring mankind to the Cross of Christ! It was the plan of God, to prepare a means by which sin could be dealt with once and for all time. Read **Hebrews 9:11-15** for a full account of the intent of God, and the explanation of what the sacrifice of Christ was intended to complete. We must be absolutely clear about this. It is this “Word of God” that spirituality is all about. It is the standard by which we should live and the standard by “which we will be judged” **John 12:48**.

The plan that God devised was not immediately made known. It was “hid in God from the beginning of the world.” **Ephesians 3:9**. It was “kept secret since the world began” **Romans 16:25**. “but is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit” **Ephesians 3:5**. It is the “word of TRUTH...the gospel of your salvation” **Ephesians 1:13**. It is the Word that is to be spread in the preaching of the gospel, first by the apostles **Mark 16:16**, and nowadays “by the Church” **Ephesians 3:10**.

Being revealed within the bounds of the New Testament, the word enlightens us to understand what the “will of the Lord is”. The word of God is given that we may travel through this life, free from bondage, and looking forward to our home eternal. John said it this way, “if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” **1 John 1:7**.

Please consider these things as you contemplate your condition in the eyes of God. It is God’s plan, and He has made the path of righteousness clear: He has shined His light on us that we may walk in His ways by the light of his word.

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 .

SUNDAY SERVICES, JAN 1, 2023

— Our Bible classes and worship services on New Year's Day will be our usual times — 9AM Bible class, 10AM and 6PM worship.

NEWS FROM OUR LEADERSHIP MEETING...

- We have a new budget, \$4500/week which has new items like...
 - Increasing our support for children's homes
 - Taking on Pittsfield MA with \$500/month
- We'll have a special singing workshop this spring with brother Ken Dawdy
- Pittsfield MA is in need of a van or mini-van
- In January we'll return to having a prayer time at 5PM on the 1st and 3rd Sunday, which will include special time to talk about who needs prayer and visits.
- Our deacons were given assignments for a more efficient service to the church here
- David Tarbet, one of our missionaries, will come preach for us soon and give a report on northeast missions

ON THE FOYER TABLE There's a new report from the church in Pittsfield MA in the foyer. Pick it up and get encouraged.

OUR NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM

We are collecting food and household items to contribute to various food banks in the area. There is a list of suggested items and collection tubs in the back of the church building by the water fountains. If you would rather contribute money, a money jar is on the table for your convenience. Please keep this outreach effort in your prayers.

GIVING OPTIONS — please be aware that there are now several ways to contribute. The collection plate will continue to be passed, but we also have online options at our website, rhcoc.org.

PRAYER LISTS...

Prayers needed

- Ralph and Sandy Linebaugh are asking for prayers for their next door neighbor, Ralph Harloff with end stage cancer
- Susie Chaisson's mother passed away recently. Please pray for her and her family. Want to do something for the family? Susie asks you donate to the children's home fund.
- Emma R. as a new Christian
- For Brooke and Logan Campbell, strength to continue caring for their mother
- Dianna Conkling's undergoing chemo (to finish in March) so, prayers are still urged.
- Hugh R.'s sister Andrea, who was re-hospitalized for pain in her chemo treatment.
- Sue Carter: please pray for more health improvement

- Chuck T. cancer treatments

Remember these often:

- Isela H.'s friend Jeff with stage 4 brain cancer.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- 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-IN-A-YEAR

- Dec 18, Hebrews 5-8
- Dec 19, Hebrews 9-11
- Dec 20, Hebrews 12-13
- Dec 21, James all
- Dec 22, 1 Peter all
- Dec 23, 2 Peter all
- Dec 24, 1 John all
- Dec 25, 2 /3 John/Jude all

*"The Lord bless you
and keep you."
(Numbers 6:24)*

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.

What Does the Birth of Jesus Mean?

Luke 2 tells of the birth of Jesus. He was miraculously conceived through the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin named Mary. He was born in the town of Bethlehem, the home of David; and because there was no room in the inn, he was born in the most humble of circumstances, a stable. But part of the story also includes an angelic announcement to a group of shepherds in the fields surrounding Bethlehem, which began, "Do not be afraid." Good thing, too, because then a multitude of the heavenly host appeared all praising God. And by the way, in case you were ever looking for a good reason to celebrate the birth of Jesus, this would be a pretty good one — the angels certainly did. But the main point here is that the angelic celebration points to something profoundly significant going on here. But sadly, while many know the story, the significance is often lost in the midst of all the chaos of decorating, family gatherings, friend gathering, shopping, and gift giving of the season. Indeed, when I asked 3-5 year olds recently what Christmas was all about, the typical answers had to do with Santa Claus, Christmas trees, and presents. So let's talk about what this celebration of the Lord's birth really means.

First, it means that God keeps His promises (both good and bad). God isn't like us humans, whose promises may or may not be sincere and who may not be able to deliver on what has been promised, no matter how sincere. What God promises always comes to pass; He's always sincere and able. At the fall (Genesis 3:15) God promised a Messiah, Who would be born of the seed of a woman, and Who would crush the head of Satan. And throughout the Old Testament God reminded us, gave us further information about it, and even gave a timeframe; and sure enough, God (Who cannot lie) kept His word.

When others ask, or when we wonder, "Where is the promise of His coming?" (2 Peter 3:4), remember that Jesus came just as God promised. When we wonder if our sins (all our sins) could really have been forgiven, remember that Jesus came, just as promised. When we wonder if God will really deal justice to

those who have harmed us, or if we wonder whether God will really condemn unbelievers and the fallen away and reward the faithful; remember that Jesus came just like God promised. Paul put it this way in 2 Cor. 1:20 — "For as many as are the promises of God, in Him (Jesus) they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us." And so the angels celebrated.

Second God loves the world (including you).

John 3:16 may be the world's most well known passage, yet there are many who would doubt it, when sorrow comes or we pray and God says no or when we fall grievously into sin or when we feel worthless or are suffering. But John 3:16 reminds us that God loved us (and still loves us), each of us, enough to send His Son into this world to empty Himself of the privileges of equality with the Father, condescend to live as a human, condescend to live the life of the poor, experience the full measure of human struggle (suffering, sorrow, sickness, grief, and pain), and finally die a terribly painful and humiliating death. And all, not because of obligation, but according to His love and amazing grace. So never doubt God's love for you, no matter the circumstances; because God has proven His love in the birth of Jesus. And so the angels celebrated.

Third, we have "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). By definition, a savior rescues from enemies, oppressors, and terrible circumstances; and that is just what Jesus was and continues to be today. "Christ" means "anointed" — anointed by the Father to be King, Priest, Prophet, and Savior. And boy, do we need one — from this messed up world full of sinful behavior, from the estrangement we have from God, from death, and especially from condemnation because of our sins (Hell)! In Jesus we have true rescue from sin's consequences of guilt and Hell, from the sins themselves, and from the damage they inflict on us and the world around us! In other words, in Him salvation, real forgiveness, and eternal life are now available! No wonder the angels celebrated!

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day ■ 11:00 AM Worship ■ 6:00 PM Worship			■ 7:00 PM Wed. Bible class			

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Dec 25	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>	Burley S	
<i>Announcements</i>	John S	
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J	
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Yaw F	
<i>Communion</i> and Servers	Charles H	Jim B
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Doug J	

Dec. 28		
<i>Songleading</i>	Reiven H	

Jan. 1	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>		
<i>Announcements</i>	Charles H	Charles H
<i>Songleading</i>	Scott Wa	Doug J
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Reiven H	Burley S
<i>Communion</i> and Servers	Burley S	Fernando Z
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Scott W	Yaw F

Jan. 4
<i>Songleading</i>

Sermon Notes...

Shortcuts to good info...

To our website...



A quick teaching on salvation...

