

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ

The Choices We Make; the Chances We Take



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 Rubbish
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

The inspired writer says in **Rom. 8:5-8** “They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh: but they that are after the spirit, the things of the spirit”. He says that, “the Carnal (fleshly) mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be, So then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

There are rather obvious reasons why we should be concerned about ‘living after the Spirit’ as opposed to ‘living after the flesh’... (1) “No man can serve two masters”... **Matthew 6:24** (for he will choose one over the other) THE WAY OF THE WORLD OR THE WAY OF GOD. (2) “It is appointed unto man, once to die, and after that, the judgment” **Hebrews 9:27**. and (3) “we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” **2 Corinthians 5:10**. “that every one may receive the things done in his body whether it be good or bad.” (4) **Ecclesiastes 12:7** (at death) the dust shall return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

Solomon, the wisest man to have ever lived, goes on to identify the “whole duty of man” is to “fear God and keep his commandments” **Ecclesiastes 12:13**.

Let us be clear in this matter: every person is an object of God’s creation. God knows “the very number of hairs upon your head”, **Matthew 10:30** and the “thoughts and intents of your heart” **Hebrews 4:12**. Every person has a soul or ‘spirit’ that is eternal in nature **Genesis 2:7**. It is the Spirit of the individual that will remain after the physical death, “reserved unto judgment” **2 Peter 2:4-9**. On the day of judgment, all who were ever born will stand before “the judgment seat of Christ” **Romans 14:10**. To give “account for every idle word” **Matthew 12:36**

A separation shall be made between those who lived by the flesh and those who lived by the Spirit, **Matthew 25:31-46**. If you some time, please read this account that is given directly by Jesus himself. It gives a clear explanation of what we can expect, and perhaps give new direction to our lives.

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 .

THE MONTH LEADERSHIP MEETING is scheduled for Dec. 11, next Sunday, at 4PM. Elders, deacons, and preacher, please mark your calendar and be present.

THE LADIES' ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE will be Monday, Dec. 5th at 6:30PM in the fellowship hall. Please sign up on the sign up sheet on the ladies' table in the back of the auditorium. Need more info? See Linda S. or Pam.

YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY will be December 11 after worship services in the fellowship building. They will decorate and package the cake project we are doing for the Frisco Food Bank.

LADIES' ACTIVITIES The ladies' Bible class will take a break for the holidays and resume Jan. 10 of next year.

CHILDREN'S HOMES COLLECTION will begin Nov. 30. Please see Linda S. for info and giving. The proceeds will be split between Christ's Haven and Foster's Home for Children.

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 suggest-

ed 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

- Rosa Z illness
 - Emma R. as a new Christian
 - For Brooke and Logan Campbell in dealing with their mother's illness
 - Carol Pyburn is in Good Samaritan nursing home in Denton — a broken leg.
 - Nancy R. illness
 - Dianna C.'s cancer markers are improving after her chemo, no doubt due to God's blessing; so, prayers are still urged.
 - Hugh R.'s sister Andrea Kerley, whose surgery was unsuccessful and now must undergo chemo.
 - Sue Carter: please pray for more health improvement
 - Chuck T. cancer treatments
- Remember these often:**
- Isela H.'s Jeff Barnett 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 4, 2 Cor 9-13
- Dec 5, Galatians 1-3
- Dec. 6 Galatians 4-6
- Dec 7, Eph 1-3
- Dec 8, Eph 4-6
- Dec 9, Philippians all
- Dec 10, Colossians all
- Dec 11, 1 Thess all

*The heavens
declare the glory
of God.
(Psalm 19:1)*

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.

Wise Men Still Seek Him

The story of Christ's birth and early childhood, will be on the minds of many over the next few weeks. It is probably the most familiar story in the Bible...

- Mary discovering that she was with child, though she was a virgin;
- Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, yet finding no room in the inn;
- Jesus born in a barn and laid in a manger;
- the angelic announcement to the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem, prompting them to visit the newborn King;
- the visit of the magi, the wise men, from the east;
- the attempt of king Herod to kill Jesus,
- causing Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to flee to Egypt until after Herod's death.

And since this story will be on our minds, I'd like to take the opportunity to point out some lessons from the story that are less often noted. The first one being "Wise Men Still Seek Him".

The wise men part of the story is found starting in Matthew 2:1. In the original story, these are more than just "wise men", they are magi. The magi were widely known and respected in the ancient middle east for their knowledge, insight, and intellect. Daniel was one of them in his day — in fact he was the chief of the magi (Daniel 2:48 / 4:9 / 5:11). And contrary to the story usually told, they arrived in Bethlehem, when Jesus was about two years old. But why are these Gentile intellectuals mentioned in the story of the Messiah's birth?

The likely answer has partially to do with Daniel, who was chief of the magi for decades, and who was apparently quite celebrated as a wise man in his day. This celebrated Jewish wise man and prophet clearly left behind some prophecies that we know in the Bible as Daniel. And since he wrote prophetically for the Jewish people and even Gentile kings, it is likely that he wrote other things for his fellow magi about a great king of the Jewish people, who would be worthy of worship, gifts, and a long trip from Chaldea to Bethlehem. The appearance of the magi in the story is significant to Jewish readers, Matthew's original audience, because of the Daniel connection. These magi, after reading and studying the writings from high-ranking, magi chief

Daniel, saw the predicted sign in the night sky and came from far-away Chaldea (southern Iraq).

The other part of the significance of the magi coming from afar likely comes from the many prophecies in Isaiah that speak of even far-off nations streaming to the Messiah and His kingdom. We can read, for example, "Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious" (Isaiah 11:10). And the fact that they were the intellectual cream of the world who had come to seek Him makes the point of fulfilled prophecy even more compelling.

And wise men still seek Him. Now, it would seem that the recognized wise men of our age have no interest in seeking for Jesus. The Humanist philosophy, fueled by "scientism" (something different than true science), has gained the upper hand in our age, and many of our celebrated intellectuals have "toed the line" of atheism, the shibboleth of the "cool kids". I read an online news article once on Einstein's brain, and one reader's comment questioned Einstein's real intelligence on the basis of his steadfast belief in God; I thought, "Really?!"

But there continue to be wise men of every nation who seek meaning, purpose, real life, and spiritual truth. And in their seeking, they recognize the signs of fulfilled prophecy, of the "ring of truth" to Jesus' teachings, and the rock solid testimony of the resurrection of Jesus — the ultimate proof of His identity as the Son of God. They are wise in seeking the spiritual over the material, the eternal over the temporary, Jesus over the wisdom of men. They are wise in seeking hope, not in this temporary and decaying world, but in the glorious and eternal world to come — available in Jesus. They are wise to recognize their human failings and inability to gain a righteousness of their own and to seek forgiveness and righteousness in Christ.

Paul summed it up so well (being inspired by God), when he said, "Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age..." (1 Corinthians 2:6, 7).

Indeed, wise men still seek Him. What are you seeking?

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00 AM Bible classes ■ 10:00 AM Worship ■ 6:00 PM Worship 		Ladies' Gift Exchange		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00 PM Wed. Bible class 			

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Dec 4	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>	Burley S	Burley S
<i>Announcements</i>	Jim B	Jim B
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J	Doug J
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Chris S	Hugh R
<i>Communion</i>	Reiven H	John S
<i>and Servers</i>		
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Scott W	Scott W.

Dec. 7	
<i>Songleading</i>	Charles H.

Dec 11	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>	Burley S	Burley S
<i>Announcements</i>	John S	John S
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J	Scott W
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Jim B	John S
<i>Communion</i>	John S	Reiven H
<i>and Servers</i>		
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Jim B	Jim B

Dec. 14	
<i>Songleading</i>	Jim B

Sermon Notes...

Shortcuts to good info...

To our website...



A quick teaching on salvation...

