

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

THE KINGDOM, THE CHURCH AND THE PLAN

We see three things coming to maturity in Acts 2: The Lord's Church, The Kingdom, and God's Plan for Salvation. All were by the design of God, prophesied in previous years. All became well defined after the day of Pentecost in the year AD 33; all remain in effect until the Second coming of Christ at which time the Kingdom will be returned to God who gave it I Corinthians 15:24-28.

The Kingdom is not without controversy among the people of the world. It is being widely taught that the Kingdom was unsuccessful by God's original design and has not yet been established. Let's consider what the Word of God teaches regarding the Kingdom of God. Remember that Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16:18-19 "upon this rock (truth) I will build my Church...and I will give unto thee the keys to the Kingdom of heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shalt be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shalt be loosed in heaven."

By this, we see the authority that was given to Peter and the Apostles. They would be responsible of fulfilling what God had designed, to help establish a Kingdom with Christ as the head (king) by the power and will of God. This was done by the Preaching of the gospel of the kingdom Matthew 24:14...of which there would be NO END Luke 1:33 that every man should pursue it Luke 16:16. It is undeniable that a kingdom was to be established. That it is now in existence. That Christ is its Head, and that all who are obedient to God, in the name of Jesus Christ, would "continue in the Faith and enter into the Kingdom of God." Acts 14:22.

Let us review the words of Jesus to the Apostles as the events of Acts Chapter 2 were about to take place. In Luke 24:45-49, after his resurrection, Jesus meets with his Apostles. He first "opens their understanding" Verse 45 then instructs them that, "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem" in v. 47. In v. 49, he continues, "behold I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Jesus continues his instruction in Acts 1:4 when he tells the Apostles, "that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father." In verse 8 Jesus said, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and unto the uttermost part of the earth" for the fulfillment of God's prophesy concerning the establishment of a Kingdom, a Church and the glorious Plan for Salvation in the name of Jesus Christ.

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 .

LEADERSHIP MEETING NOTES...

- We'll be having a homecoming event in October of this year. Details are yet to be determined, but should be coming soon.
- The Resource page on our website continues to be updated and useful to the congregation.
- The back door of the auditorium bangs, when it is shut; this will be fixed soon.
- The small groups are planning a number of social events for the fall.
- Our usual monthly Wednesday night singing will be changed to be quarterly — every 5th Wednesday of a month. Our next singing Wednesday will be August 31. This is being done to improve our

Bible class continuity.

- The leadership wants to work on a big-picture evangelism plan, the pieces of which will work together and fit our budget and the best ways to reach out into our community with the Gospel.

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.

LINDA MOORE broke her arm, and has a new purple cast.

LORI CLOUD'S FATHER passed away and the funeral will be Friday, August 5th in Beaumont, TX.

THE SMETZER'S KIDS, who live with them, have COVID. So far, John and Carmen are OK.

DOUG JONES' BROTHER'S funeral was yesterday at Turrentine-Jackson-Morrow in Gunter.

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.

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... Thanksgivings

- For Park's recovery
- Freida R's COVID recovery
- Haley family COVID recovery

Prayers needed

- Penny Ranger, a NH friend of Park's is sick and asks prayers
- Don Jones, Doug's brother, died, please pray for the family.
- 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.

"I am with you always" (Mt. 28:20)

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

- Jul 31, Isa 43-47
- Aug 1, Isa 48-51
- Aug 2, Isa 52-56
- Aug 3, Isa 57-59
- Aug 4, Isa 60-63
- Aug 5, Isa 64-66
- Aug 6, Jer 1-3
- Aug 7, Jer 4-6

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.

The Invitation

Recently, I preached about the part of worship known as the sermon. I'm hopeful that everyone came away with a way to participate in the sermon in worship more completely and effectively. One aspect of the sermon, however, was not touched on, the invitation. There just wasn't enough time. So I thought I'd finish the sermon here in the bulletin on a subject that is hardly ever discussed, the invitation.

A trend in sermons over the last several years has been to drop the invitation. The reasons given are several: 1) modern folks don't publicly respond to a sermon anymore, 2) it's not a requirement of Scripture, and 3) it's a tradition that's left over from the tent-meeting revivals that's no longer relevant today. Some of this (not all) has come from a denominational trend that has tried to make the modern sermon into a nice speech intended primarily to make the hearers feel good.

Whatever the modern reasons and rationales for skipping the invitation, there is still a strong case to be made for sermons to include them in the sermon.

First invitations are not just old-fashioned traditions. The point of sermons in both Old and New Testaments was to call men to immediate repentance, a change of heart and behavior from sin to obedience toward God—often in a public forum. The prophets' messages were calls to repentance (Isaiah 1:18-20; Hosea 14:1, 2; Amos 5:14, 15; and more). John the Baptist's messages were all about repentance (Mark 1:4,5). Jesus' messages were calls to change lives (Matthew 13:43; Matthew 7:24ff; Luke 16:19ff; and many, many more). The apostles' messages included public calls for repentance (Acts 2:38-41; Acts 3:17-26; and many others). And the letter to the Hebrews, which calls itself a sermon (a "word of exhortation" Hebrews 13:22) to be read aloud to various congregations, contains no less than four (Hebrews 3:12ff; 6:4ff; 10:26ff; and 12:25ff). It must be admitted, of course, that the singing of a "invitation song" was probably not included, but you surely get the point here. Inviting men to turn to God is always at the very heart of a sermon, and often it was and is done in distinct, public, and urgent appeals within a sermon. So, an invitation at the end of a sermon is both Biblical and natural.

But what is an invitation for? The short answer is that invitations are appeals to men and women to respond to God's call to repent and change. Sermons are not about opinions, politics, academic proposals, or trivia; they are declarations of sober, spiritual truth from the Lord Himself (see 2 Timothy 4:1ff). And although some of such messages will encourage us to persevere in faith, others will "reprove and rebuke". The apostle Paul's letters (which could be considered a variety of sermon) often contained both. The "reprove and rebuke" sort are logically intended to prompt the response of repentance. A sermon of pure encouragement may not need an invitation (e.g., Revelation 2:8-11); but when sermons point out error, a call to change naturally happens (e.g., Revelation 3:14-22). But one may ask, "Why is there a call for the response to be public?" First of all, not every response to the invitation will be public; the hope of every Gospel preacher is that the whole assembly will grow and change from the sermon given. Speaking directly to the question, however, the invitation is not as much a call for a *public* response—although there is good reason for some public responses—as it is a call for an *immediate* response. Immediacy of repentance is a continual theme in Scripture (e.g., Heb. 3:7,13,15 and 4:7), and the dangers against putting it off is crystalized in the story found in Acts 24:24,25 in which Felix tells Paul, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."

OK, so who should respond to an invitation? Well, in theory almost everyone, but if you're asking who should come forward, it would be: 1) People who want to place faith in Jesus and obey Him in baptism, thus becoming Christians, 2) wayward Christians, whose public deeds have brought dishonor to the name of Christ and His church (public sins should be publicly acknowledged and repented of), or 3) disciples of Christ asking the congregation for its prayers, so that they can overcome in their struggles against temptations, trials, or sin.

Truth is not merely to be preached and heard, it is to be done. This is the essence of the reason for an invitation at the end of a sermon. In an invitation, we are called upon to do what was preached.

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN JULY & AUGUST

31	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>Park L. 🍷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00 AM Bible classes ■ 10:00 AM Worship ■ 6:00 PM Worship ■ 7:00 PM Birthday Cake Sunday 		■ 7:00 PM Wed. Bible class				

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

July 31

	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>	John S	John S
<i>Announcements</i>	Jim B	Jim B
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J	Yaw F
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Ted K	Chuck T
<i>Communion</i>	Charles H	Doug J
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Chris S	Fernando Z

August 7

	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>	Ralph L	Ralph L
<i>Announcements</i>	John S	John S
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J	Ted K
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	David J	Burley S
<i>Communion</i>	Fernando Z	Johnny V
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Hugh R	Jim B

Shortcuts to good info...

To our website...



A quick teaching on salvation...



Sermon Notes...
