

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

OBEDIENT FAITH

This article is part of a series of bulletin articles to impress us with the urgency of our souls' salvation and our response to the Gospel message. In case you haven't been following, let me spend just a moment to backtrack and remind.

God has created all things, including mankind, as recorded in **Genesis 1&2**. According to **Revelation 22:13**, and **Psalms 119:142**, things pertaining to God are spiritual, and "eternal or everlasting" in nature. We can expect the life span of mortals to be "*threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years,*" as mentioned in **Psalms 90:10**. It is also pointed out in **Hebrews 9:27**, that "*it is appointed unto men once to die, and after that, the judgment*". And Jesus told us, "*the word I spoke is what will judge him [us] at the last day.*" **John 12:48** and we will "*all stand before the judgment seat of Christ*", **II Corinthians 5:10**.

It is very important that we get this. No one will be left out; all will be judged fairly by the standard that God has well defined within His Inspired Word. In **Romans 14:11**, we are warned that "*As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*" This verse assures us, that whether we choose to live our lives by the moral standard of God, or if we choose the ways of the world when we stand before Him in judgment, there will no longer be a doubt in our mind; no question as to how we should have lived. Though it will be well past any opportunity to change, that is REPENT; we will know beyond any doubt that God was serious about sin, about judgment, and about His plan, the plan to offer His only begotten Son for our sins. And standing before Christ's judgment seat we will also know that God was serious about our **responsibility to respond** in faithful obedience and "*worship Him in Spirit and in Truth*" as written in **John 4:23 & 24**.

You see, mere faith alone doesn't save, no matter what the popular religious messages may say. There is an element that is absolutely irreplaceable for faith to be real faith — obedience. **Romans 1:5** tells us, "*[Christ] through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,*"

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.

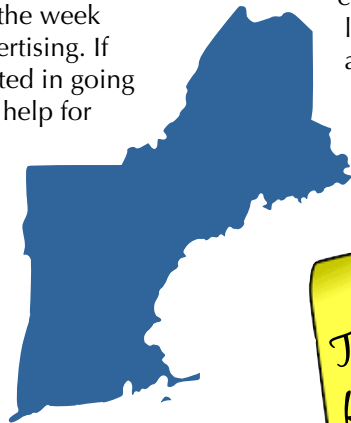
N . E . W . S .

BUILDING REPAIR UPDATE — There are just a couple more things to get done — carpeting and TV monitor for the front of the auditorium — and we'll be finished. Many thanks to everyone involved in any way to make it happen.

NEXT SUNDAY at 4PM is the monthly Leadership Meeting. If you have something that you'd like the elders, deacons, and minister to consider, please bring it to one of our leaders' attention before next Sunday.

AFTER EVENING WORSHIP TONIGHT, there will be our monthly “birthday cake” fellowship for May.

THE CHURCH IS PLANNING ON HELPING HE CHURCHING PITTSFIELD MA (The Berkshire County church of Christ) in a Gospel meeting this fall, Sept. 25-28. We'd like to have several from our congregation come and help the week before with advertising. If you'd be interested in going to Pittsfield and help for a little over a week in helping advertise a gospel meeting, please let Park, Charles, or Jim know **BEFORE JULY 10**



WE HAVE A NEW RESOURCE PAGE on our website with lots of Bible study materials for every level of learner. rhcoc.org



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...

- Successful heart surgery for Fernando's father.

New Requests

- The Bautistas ask us to pray for John as he had nose surgery Wednesday to help him breathe better. He is recovering at home. Also, Norma was not feeling well and just tested positive for Covid. Pray for John and Norma to recover quickly.
- Susie is having some ear problems that the doctors are trying to solve; a CT scan is scheduled for Wednesday
- Fernando's father's recovery
- Lori Cloud and her family at the loss of her brother John.

Prayers needed

- Linda M. had surgery on her left eye Thursday. The outcome is looking good (pun?). Pray for a full recovery and surgical success.

- Successful eye surgery for Ora Holt

- Isela H.'s Jeff Barnett with stage 4 brain cancer.
- A swift recovery for Tom Roberts from quadruple bypass Thursday.
- Trudy R.'s surgical recovery

Remember these often:

- For Lori Cloud's father, with cognitive issues and is now in hospice. Also for Lori and her brother to make the best decision for him and their mother.
- Please pray for Johnny Vaz's mother, Victoria Vaz.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- Our continued search for a part-time youth minister
- Doug Jones' brother, Don Jones with cancer
- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our elders, deacons, and preacher

Long Term Requests

- 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

- Jun 5, Neh 11-13
- Jun 6, Esther 1-3
- Jun 7, Esther 4-7
- Jun 8, Esther 8-10
- Jun 9, Job 1-5
- Jun 10, Job 6-10
- Jun 11, Job 11-15
- Jun 12, Job 16-21

Truth is not just for knowing, it is for doing!



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.

My Life Has Meaning

Ecclésiastes deals with one of the world's most enduring questions of all time — "What is the meaning of life?" Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes and as king of Israel, you really couldn't say that his life was without meaning — and yet, Ecclesiastes is chock full of asking what life is all about. And while it takes him a while to prove his point, he actually starts off in the first chapter with, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity!" It wasn't just because he was having a bad day, he was actually expressing the aching craving we all have built into our souls, the desire to have meaning. The world aches for something deeper, longer lasting, and more meaningful than the visible, physical reality we live in. And the good news is that God has assured us of meaning — in Jesus — a significance even in the midst of suffering, to live godly and holy (as difficult as it is), to try and keep trying, and to know that our lives mean something.

For instance, Christians know that we've been **created** (physically) and then **recreated** (spiritually) by God for a purpose. Human beings are not empty, random evolutionary accidents. We've been lovingly created in God's image; and we can know that we are loved and meaningful, because God sent his Son to die for "whosoever" will believe (Jn. 3:16). Jesus wouldn't have died for trash. You are valued, treasured, and deeply loved (1 Pet. 2:9). And you are purposed; even in Eden, God gave man a purpose. And now according to 2 Tim. 1:9 we can know that, "[God] has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own **purpose** and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus from all eternity." You have purpose. Pity the worldly person whose earthly purposes are short-lived and temporary at best.

Moreover, human beings have a destiny and a destination; we are creatures of eternity and inheritance. The unbelieving world may *think* that humanity's existence is pointless, like a pinball game, randomly ping-pong around until you lose — meaning nothing more than a moment's diversion. But Christians can have a completely different perspective; there's a "hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel" (Col. 1:5). There are "good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). And even a plan for each of us, "for I know the plans I have for you" (Jer.

29:11). Think of it, God has things for you to do and a plan for you and your life. We may not know His unique route for our journey, but we know the destination will be wonderful. The great men and women of the Bible, like us, had to step out on faith, but in doing so they 1) did great things and 2) inherited Heaven. You, too, have a great destiny and destination, Heaven.

And this meaning endures even through suffering and trial, because I can know that even distresses and sorrows are not for nothing. Many in the world see life, including its trials and victories, as a little more than the previously mentioned life-size pinball game — random and pointless experiences of good and bad. However, as a Christian I can know that even my suffering has value. Hebrews 12 tells us, for example, that they could be considered like the discipline of a good parent — sometimes to get our attention and sometimes for our growth (see also James 1:2–4). Like Job, we may not be able to understand why God does some things, but we can rest assured that our suffering and trials are not meaningless. In fact, sometimes it may be the only way to accomplish God's larger plan. As Habakkuk was being told by God a horrifying Babylonian invasion (1:5) he was also told, "Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days you would not believe if you told." And something really great did come out of that suffering. As Joseph reflected on being sold into slavery and his years in prison, he told his brothers, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive." And, think about this, the most horrendous deed ever done by man, crucifixion of the Son of God, resulted in great eternal victory. Indeed, God seems to specialize in taking bad and broken things and making them good and meaningful (Romans 8:28).

In Christ, you see, you are part of something greater than yourself, grand in scale and scope, eternally enduring, and important in the extreme. Outside of Him we are only part of a random, decaying world, and even our greatest accomplishments are doomed to rust, dust, and vanity.

I'm glad I'm a Christian, aren't you?

Park Linscomb

