

# THE ROCK HILL HERALD

*Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ*



## *God Has Not Lowered His Standard*

As a society, we seem to have become comfortable with our spiritual condition, “just as we are” regardless of where that puts us in the eyes of God. In **Matt. 12:30** Jesus said, “He that is not with me is against me...” This should make it obvious to us that there are decisions that we are required to make concerning our spiritual well-being. If you’re not certain where you stand before God, it is time to measure your life by the measurement of God described in **2 Cor. 10:13** “according to the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. You may feel that you are not “against God” but the truth lies in what you must do to be considered “with God”. For example, in order to please God, you must “worship him in Spirit and in truth.” **John 4:24**

**Hebrews 1:1-2** tells us, “God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things...” The message came to us by the only begotten “Son of God, Jesus Christ” with a task designated by the Almighty God, to provide a means by which salvation could be attained; by the plan that God has designed to add us to the church of the living God, and prepare us for eternal justice at the judgment seat of Christ!

You see, God did not leave us to chance, but has evidently provided for us “All things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” **2 Peter 1:3**. He left nothing out, nor has he taken them lightly! God does not nor does he intend to keep us on the path of righteousness with a bolt of lightning! Furthermore, we must know this morning, THAT GOD HAS NEVER LOWERED HIS STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE!

God has, however, provided TRUTH that can be easily learned and accepted. In **1 John 5:3**, “For this is the Love of God...that we keep His commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” In other words, if we see the value of righteousness, it is God’s expectation that we base our righteousness upon the truth of His word which is both possible AND reasonable!

This morning, we stand simply for the truth as expressed in the Bible; the holy and inspired Word of God.

*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
- Doug Jones
- Scott Wallace

### **Deacons:**

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Rubbish
- John Smetzer
- 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 .

**NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS** — In case you weren't here this past Sunday, new elders and deacons were appointed for Rock Hill. Doug Jones and Scott Wallace were added to the two existing elders (Charles and Jim); and Hugh Ruebush and John Smetzer were added as deacons.

**SPEAKING OF OUR LEADERSHIP**, the leadership team (elders, deacons, and preacher) will meet today (Sunday, Nov. 20) in the fellowship hall at 4PM.

**THE MEN'S MONTHLY SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST** will be postponed to Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Be sure to join us at 9AM for devotional, fellowship, and food.

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

**THE LADIES' ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE** will be Monday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Next Wednesday, Nov. 30** is our quarterly singing evening (instead of Bible study). Among other things, we're going to learn how to sing some new

songs like *The Greatest Command*.

**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 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

- 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.
- Thanksgiving for successful surgeries for Elizabeth H.
- Surgeons couldn't put a stint in John B's leg, because of a blockage and will do the larger surgery next month.
- 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.
- Memorial service for Doug Jones sister was yesterday. Please pray for Doug's family
- Sue Carter: please pray for more health improvement
- Chuck T. cancer treatments
- Recovery from eye surgery for Ora Holt
- Isela H.'s Jeff Barnett with stage 4 brain cancer.

#### Remember these often:

- 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

- Nov 20, Acts 23-25
- Nov 21, Acts 26-28
- Nov 22, Rom 1-3
- Nov 23, Rom 4-7
- Nov 24, Rom 8-10
- Nov 25, Rom 11-14
- Nov 26, Rom 15-16
- Nov 27, 1 Cor 1-4

# A Word of Encouragement

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*"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 Rules of Marriage, Part 3

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Last week we continued with a series on God's plan for marriage. We've noted that it was God's plan for mankind and should be conducted His way for best results — not to mention that doing it another way is considered sin. We've also noted that it has an order to it, the husband as the head of the home, leading with the wife's best interests in mind, with the wife following her husband's leadership. This week we'll take a brief look at some of the privileges (which also come with responsibilities) of marriage: love, affection, and sex.

A part of our nature is the desire to love and be loved. As God created man, He noted that it was not good for the man to be alone (Gen. 2:18). Indeed, extended solitary confinement will drive a person into madness. While we may righteously choose to be and remain single (1 Cor. 7:7, 32), God provided marriage for us in which to build a lifetime relationship with someone who will love us faults and all, with whom we may talk about important and unimportant things, with whom we may enjoy confidences and intimacies, with whom we may share histories and memories, with whom we can share goals and aims, and who is more than just a friend. Such a relationship is a grand privilege that should be both appreciated and protected from outside interference, temptations, and our own self-destructive inclinations.

But marriage's privileges also extend to romance and affection — which is not an unknown thing in the Bible, though we don't often point it out. The whole book of Song of Solomon is about a literal romance to symbolized the divine romance; Hosea uses it as a strong parable for our relationship with God; and it is even spoken of in Proverbs 30:18,19: "There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the sky, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the middle of the sea, And the way of a man with a maid." And men,

this is one area we seem to have the most difficulty with; nevertheless let me encourage you not to discount this fluff or unimportant. Romance and affection are one side of a coin; the other side of the coin is sex; thus, if you don't want to have your wife treat your need for sex with disdain, don't treat her need for romance with disdain. Marriage needs "winning", winsome deeds from both husband and wife. And these things consist of (but not limited to) courtesy, thoughtfulness, demonstrating special affection (not the same as sex) with things ranging from flowers and cards and more. Don't discount this need that your spouse has, because it really is a part of what you promised at your wedding.

Lastly, God has made sex as part of the marriage privilege and obligation. Sex was God's idea (Gen. 1:28 — as the first recorded commandment), even giving us in our physical bodies the added motivation of sexual appetite and attraction — then He pronounced it "very good". All that said, we need to realize, therefore, that there's nothing dirty or sinful about it, when practiced within God's perfect parameters, marriage.

And by the way, although it is for the purpose of procreation (Gen. 1:28), it is not for procreation only; it is also for fulfillment, bonding, a lovely expression of love — and avoidance of temptation (1 Cor. 7:5). In fact, beyond a privilege, 1 Cor. 7:5 teaches that it is not merely an optional privilege, because in marriage our bodies in marriage are not our own anymore.

But with such great privilege there is also responsibility; sex as God has designed it must never be used as a weapon of revenge, manipulation, or abuse; it should never be degraded; and it should never be betrayed: "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge (Heb. 13:4).

*Park Linscomb*

