

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

DON'T BE TOO LATE

The Church was established on the day of Pentecost in the year AD33. It is the Lord's Church that he died for **Acts 20:28**; it is the Lord's Church that he is head of **Colossian 1:18**; it is based upon the gospel that was delivered by the Apostles through guidance of the Holy Spirit, **John 16:13**. Any other 'gospel' is one of perversion **Galatians 1:6-9**. We should all take heed and measure our religious practices by the Word of God. As there is no other name than the name of Jesus Christ given among men whereby we must be saved **Acts 4:12**. There is no other pattern of worship that is acceptable to God other than that which has been described within His holy and inspired Word.

The pattern is plainly taught, but man doesn't necessarily like what it says, so man began to make changes. It is out of these changes that the confusion of denominational teaching was begun. Man was able to "digress" without interference by Almighty God, and the flood gates have been opened. We now have an endless supply of so called religious organizations with countless names and countless doctrines, all of whom will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to "give an account of before God" **Romans 14:12**. The idea is made more clear in **Matthew 25:31-46** with the separation of the sheep and the goats; the righteous and the unrighteousness; eternal life and everlasting punishment.

If we look more closely at **Romans 14**, I would like to point something out; if we look at **vv. 10-12**, we see the warning of judgment before Christ. In **v. 11**, it is pointed out that "every knee *shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*" I have actually heard evangelists imply that this is the glorious picture of God awarding salvation to everyone who stands before him. On the contrary, the warnings are many within the New Testament, that eternal life is given to those who have followed the words of Jesus as expressed in **John 12:48**. What the inspired writer tells us here, is that when the time comes, there will be no doubt in the mind of anyone. Every person who stands before God in judgment will understand that Jesus is Lord and God is God. Every Knee shall Bow and every tongue shall confess. It will be too late for change, too late for obedience. There will be no time to negotiate, and no opportunity to make amends. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, "behold, now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation."

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 .

CLEVE STAFFORD, sent a letter to the congregation that is included in an insert in this week's bulletin. Be sure to read it. We appreciate Cleve, his lesson Sunday, and his work for the Lord in Pittsfield.

OUR HOMECOMING EVENT

A HOMECOMING EVENT Our Rock Hill Homecoming is just 6 weeks away, on October 16th. We want this to be a great time to show off Rock Hill and what we are doing here. There will be a planning meeting tomorrow in the fellowship hall at 5pm for us to put our heads together to come up with ideas on how to make it a great success. If at all possible, please come so that we can work together on this.

OUR QUARTERLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING was last Wednesday evening. This Wednesday we continue our study in 2 Thessalonians 3. And perhaps our next study will be Revelation.

A BABY SHOWER for Julianna Saturday, September 10th. A sign up sheet for the ladies can be found in the back of the auditorium.

THE PITTSFIELD MA MISSION EFFORT: What a great meeting we

had with Cleve Stafford after Sunday worship services. The group that will be working in Pittsfield got to know him better and we all have a better idea of what we'll be doing. Please continue to pray for our effort including the Gospel meeting itself, Sept. 25-28 and the group that is planning on going: 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.

LADIES' ACTIVITIES The fall ladies' Bible class continues each Tuesday at 10AM. It's great time of sharing, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Make plans to be there.

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...

Prayers needed

- Chuck Tooley in his cancer treatments.
- Betty Shaw, Doug's sister. Very ill, now in hospice
- Dianna C.'s cancer markers have gone up
- Recovery from eye surgery for Ora Holt
- Isela H.'s Jeff Barnett with stage 4 brain cancer.

Remember these often:

- 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.

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

- Sep 4, Ezekiel 29-31
- Sep 5, Ezekiel 32-33
- Sep 6, Ezekiel 34-36
- Sep 7, Ezekiel 37-38
- Sep 8, Ezekiel 39-40
- Sep 9, Ezekiel 41-43
- Sep 10, Ezekiel 44-45
- Sep 11, Ezekiel 46-48
- Sep 12, Daniel 1-3

We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

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.

Encouragement or Discouragement?

Numbers 32:6-15 *"But Moses said to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Reuben, 'Shall your brothers go to war while you yourselves sit here? 'Now why are you discouraging the sons of Israel from crossing over into the land which the LORD has given them...you will destroy all these people.'"*

Moses and Israel had been traveling through the wilderness for about 40 years on their way to Canaan. As they approached the Promised Land, local kings from east of the Jordan River attacked them and those foreign kings were utterly defeated. Seeing their land (Jazer and Gilead) some of the Israelite tribes (Gad, Reuben, and half of the tribe of Manasseh) proposed to Moses that they would be happy with the great pasture land of Jazer and Gilead. *"They said, 'If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession; do not take us across the Jordan.'"* (Numbers 32:5).

Moses' replied with alarm! He rightly recognized that if these two and a half tribes bowed out of crossing the Jordan, the rest of Israel would get discouraged and lose faith. Moses remembered all too well the discouragement of the 10 spies and how God just almost hit the nuclear button on the whole nation over their lack of faith and obedience. Indeed, this was the very reason that they had been wandering in the wilderness for the past 40 years! Moses knew what this would do to the rest of the nation. And now Moses thought he was about to see it happen all over again! Discouragement is serious.

We tend to think that discouragement is not something that we really need to worry about. "If others get discouraged, that's on them, not me," we may selfishly think. But that's not really so. We human beings are irreversibly social creatures. We do care what others think, what others do, what others care about, and what others say. Hermits and loners often choose their aloneness, because they want to escape what others think about them — but even this has its own elements of discouragement to others. Discouragement tends to be a rather subtle thing: people cool from their love and zeal degree by subtle degree; faith gets undermined little by little; confidence gets eroded particle by particle; and whole armies become a devoted handful as the distracted and disheartened find other things to do. This is the effect of discouraging absences.

This is why we find these words in Hebrews 10:24, 25 *"and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near."* This speaks to both the discouragement that our absence can wreak, and the stimulation toward love and good deeds that our presence will have. You and I can be either encouragements or discouragements because of many things, but our attendance at meetings of the church will most assuredly be a major one them—never doubt it.

With this truth in mind, it might be good for the church and for our own souls to ask a few questions of ourselves.

- Would the Lord call my attendance at worship an encouragement or a discouragement to others at the church?
- ...my attendance at Bible classes an encouragement or a discouragement to others in Bible class?
- ...my attendance at Wednesday services an encouragement or a discouragement to other brethren?
- ...my involvement with church events an encouragement or a discouragement to others who are involved?
- ...my attitude and words toward attendance an encouragement or a discouragement to others I talk to?

Happily, the two and a half tribes reassured Moses that they only wanted to settle their wives and children in the conquered cities. They pledged that their every warrior would cross the Jordan and go home only when dismissed by the rest of the nation. They didn't want to discourage their brethren.

Why not make a renewed commitment of love for your Lord and for your brethren to improve your attendance, if it has become a "little spotty"?

Park LInscomb

