

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



God's Expectation of Us

*God has a great expectation of us. We do not exist for the sole purpose of taking our space on the earth. We are here by the grace of God, allowed by Him to be sustained for the opportunity to do His will. Remember that Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 12:13** "the whole duty of man is to *“fear God and keep His commandments.”* The idea is to revere God and to be obedient to the instructions provided within the Bible, the heart and mind of God for you and I.*

There is to be no question; no way to misunderstand, that God has created us in His own image. Has given us pre-eminence over His creation, and has given us His holy and divine Word. He has appointed us to preach the Gospel, promised to measure our success in judgment, and offers a heavenly reward! There is not a way that we can disregard the great blessings of Hope, Love and Grace. God has provided, *“all things that pertain to life and Godliness”* according to **II Peter 1:3**: He has given us opportunity to be obedient while living here upon the earth: He has encouraged us to *“learn of Him”* in **Matthew 11:29**: He has reminded us that we are part of a *“chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that we should show forth the virtues of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light...”* as seen in **I Peter 2:9**.

He has given to us a direct line of communication with Him through the avenue of prayer, the Holy Spirit *“who intercedes for us”* according to **Romans 8:26-27**: a mediator in Christ Jesus who goes before the God of Creation on our behalf as mentioned in **I Timothy 2:5**.

Is there a reason why we should not see the great value of what God has provided? Should we not consider how great the price for each privilege in the sacrifice of His son? Can we not feel obligated to meet the responsibilities that are outlined within God's Word? We fear the condition of a lost and dying world. Can we not see that this is what we can expect when the moral standard is allowed to decay? What we see in the average person, is nothing more than an extension of OUR attitudes or OUR ambitions! We may think that God does not have the right to control us, but God has every right to expect us to practice what He teaches.

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

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Doug Jones
- 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 .

THE ELDERS, DEACONS, AND PREACHER that was to be held this afternoon is postponed to next Sunday, Feb. 20, at 4PM. Got anything that you'd like discussed by our leaders? Tell it to one of them for discussion.



OUR BIBLE STUDIES...Sunday mornings we're studying Old Testament history and are now entering the era of the divided kingdom. Just last Wednesday we started the

NT book of 1 Thessalonians.

A SERIES ON THE ELDERSHIP...starts today. Take notes, ask questions; this is important stuff.

THE NEXT CHRISTIAN MEN'S SERVICE CLASS will be March 26 — Prayer. The rest of the schedule looks like this...

- April 30 — The Lord's Supper
- May 28 — Preaching 1
- June 25 — Preaching 2
- July 30 — Preaching 3

Come, learn how you can be of greater service to the church here at Rock Hill.

THE LADIES' CLASS meets in the fellowship hall each Tuesday at 10am. This Tuesday they'll be delivering goodies to our shut-ins.

TREAT FOR OUR SHUT-INS — Thanks to all the ladies who made candy

to share with our shut-ins this past Tuesday.

THE "KICK-OFF" OF CARE GROUPS

will be March 20. After March 20th morning worship services, we'll all meet for a

potluck and afterward will meet in our separate Care Groups.

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...

New Requests;

- The family of Dave Elliot, friend of Charles H., who died on Wednesday of COVID.
- Bonnie Davidson's niece, Brenda Gordon, who fell with several complications; now at Parkland

Praise for answers...

- Most of our COVID sufferers at Rock Hill have recovered
 - Ora H. is improving
- Prayers needed**
- Ora Holt
 - Mark Berhstrom, friend of Elizabeth, back surgery
 - Sherry Joy: encouragement regarding her health and future
 - Kevin Kissinger, Doug and Nancy's grandson
 - Nancy Jones' cousin Larry Rigsby
 - Rita Wallis (Nancy J.'s cousin), husband Monroe just passed away
 - Julia's nurse friend, Michaela, paralysis, surgery, recovery, and rehab
 - Maxie Savage (cousin of Nancy J.) also has COVID and AFIB

- Lori Cloud's father: some confusion
- Dianne Haley's cousin, Heather Martindale: cancer, chemo, surgery, and just lost her father.
 - Travis Y. feeding tube complications
 - Linda M.'s friend, Sandra: cancer and chemo.
 - Linda M.'s niece
 - Conkling family
 - Trelitha Bryant

- Zapata's teenage friend Isabella with a heart lesion

Remember these often:

- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our elders, deacons, and preacher

Long Term Requests

- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Bonnie B.
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon
- Cheryl F.
- Ann S.

WE'RE A BIBLE-READING GROUP. FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE AND READ THE BIBLE THROUGH THIS YEAR — AGAIN.

- Jan 23, Exo 16-18
- Jan 24, Exo 19-21
- Jan 25, Exo 22-24
- Jan 26, Exo 25-27
- Jan 27, Exo 28-29
- Jan 28, Exo 30-32
- Jan 29, Exo 33-35
- Jan 30, Exo 36-38

See what new things you can pick up out of the Bible this time through!

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.

What Wall is Your Ladder Leaning Against?

Most all of us live fairly busy lives. We go here and there and check our watches, our calendars, our messages, our email, and our check lists. This can certainly be a good thing, because these things help us stay on track and productive as we try to squeeze everything in.

On the other hand, such busyness and the mindset of "not a minute to spare" can be dangerous, because it robs us of the necessary time to reflect, to get our bearings, and to live deliberately. In other words, we can become so busy climbing our ladders in life that we don't stop to ask the really important question about what wall our ladders are leaning against — where all this flurry and fury of activity is leading, what our busy lives are *really* all about.

One of the enduring values of the book of Ecclesiastes, written by the wise king Solomon, is that it deals with the essence of this question: What does all the activity mean; where does it lead; what is the point; what are our busy lives really all about? What wall is your ladder leaning against? Solomon's life as king of the united kingdom of Israel was full — of work, of learning, of pleasure, of building, of successes, of wealth, of creativity, and more. And with all that wisdom and experience, he really has something to say to this modern era of unexamined busyness.

Of happiness, he wrote, "I said to myself, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself.' And behold, it too was futility. I said of laughter, 'It is madness,' and of pleasure, 'What does it accomplish?'" (Eccl. 2:1, 2). After a lifetime of observation and experience, Solomon had concluded that in the end happiness was temporary, illusory, and not at all worthy as a reason for being.

Solomon built great buildings — the Temple, it is said, was one of the wonders of the world in its day. And descriptions we have of his other building projects are impressive to say the least. Nevertheless, of these accomplishments and achievements he wrote, "Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done

and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun" (Eccl. 2:11). In other words, when you put your ladder against this wall and you reach the top, you find just a whole lot of "so what?"

Solomon had observed the problem of putting your ladder against the wall of success, too, "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves abundance with its income. This too is vanity. When good things increase, those who consume them increase. So what is the advantage to their owners except to look on? The sleep of the working man is pleasant, whether he eats little or much; but the full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep" (Eccl. 5:10-12). Ouch! Was that really what we expected?

And the wall of materialism? Well, here's Solomon's thoughts on that, "What the eyes see is better than what the soul desires. This too is futility and a striving after wind" (Eccl. 6:9). Just because you can touch it, doesn't mean that it is permanent or lasting. Solomon puts it in the same category as chasing and trying to catch the wind; you can grasp at it, but all you'll get is a handful of nothing.

So, what was Solomon's solution? Pursue the permanent things, the eternal things, the spiritual things: "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil" (Eccl. 12:13, 14). This is the wall, the only wall, even with its challenges and struggles, against which you should lean your ladder. It's the only one with substance at the top.

Where are you leaning your ladder? What will you find at the top? A whole lot of nothing that you *thought* would be something, or a loving Savior welcoming you into the eternal glory prepared for His people.

What wall is your ladder leaning against?

Park Linscomb

