

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill Church of Christ

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Frisco TX 75035

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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

A Warning from the Father

We have made a point to contrast of the Old and New Testaments over the past several weeks. I trust that our readers have begun to see the fading nature of the Old Testament, and the prevailing intent of the New Testament. Yes, “things written aforetime, were written for our learning” Romans 15:4. The question is always, what did we learn from that which is written: and how do we apply it to our Christian walk on a daily basis? What are the lessons that God intended for us to learn as a result of what is written?

I hear a great deal of disturbing conclusions from the average person who would claim to be “Christian” by some definition of the word. One of the most disturbing has to do with the love of God, and its daily, and practical application. One example of the mis-application of God’s love is in Deuteronomy chapter 28. I have heard this verse quoted on several occasions, because of the great promise of God regarding blessings. The promises are given in verse 1 thru 14 and include blessings of “city, field, the fruit of thy body, the fruit of thy ground, the fruit of thy cattle, oxen, sheep, travels, and all the work of thy hands.” What gets overlooked are the conditions that are also mentioned in the same course of scripture. Verse 1 includes the specific condition. This condition is not popular to talk about. In fact, most would claim that this would qualify as the ugly word “WORKS”. However, these are the pre-requisites that God has ALWAYS used to qualify His followers!

In verse 1, it is plainly written, “If thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His Commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee above all nations of the earth.” These conditions are repeated in verse 9 and in verse 13 to be certain that they are not overlooked and be certain that the children of Israel understand the expectation of God for them under the Old Law. It became their responsibility as the “people of God”. This is a not a ‘work’ as many call it today but the absolute requirement of the Almighty God. If you accept His blessings, you must also accept these conditions, AND accept YOUR responsibility! We are under ‘covenant’ with God “according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Obedience is a condition of the covenant.

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 .

BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY — Tonight after worship services we'll gather in the fellowship room to celebrate all those whose birthdays fall in January. Come enjoy the fellowship and the goodies.

THIS WEDNESDAY is "Singing Wednesday" instead of Bible study. However, the next Wednesday we'll start the NT book of 1 Thessalonians.

A SERIES ON THE ELDERSHIP — Starting Feb. 6, next Sunday morning, Park will begin a sermon series on the eldership.

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

- March 26 — Prayer leadership
- April 30 — The Lord's Supper
- May 28 — Preaching 1
- June 25 — Preaching 2
- July 30 — Preaching 3

If you're interested in learning how to better lead in worship, be sure to come to this class.

YOUTH MINISTER SEARCH — Jonathan and Lacy Crowell will interview for our

youth minister position the weekend of Feb. 25-27. Look for details about the weekend's schedule soon.



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PROJECT thanks to everyone who came and helped

TREAT FOR OUR SHUT-INS — The ladies are planning on making candy to share with our shut-ins.

THE LADIES' CLASS meets in the fellowship hall each Tuesday at 10am.

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

- Rita Wallis (Nancy J.'s cousin), whose husband Monroe just passed away from COVID
- Maxie Savage (also cousin of Nancy J.) also has COVID and AFIB

For COVID sufferers

- Larry Brazeal (Bonnie Davidson's nephew) and wife Laura
- Sue Carter
- Sue Ann Vest, friend of the Jones'
- Dave Elliott, Charles H.'s lifelong friend: COVID Pneumonia.
- Jason Wade, the Haley's son in law
- Doug Jones' brother, Bill, and his wife Diana, both have COVID.

Praise for answers...

- Most of our COVID sufferers at Rock Hill have recovered
- Ora H. is improving

Prayers needed

- Mark Berhstrom, friend of Elizabeth, asks prayers for back surgery
- Sherry Joy: needs prayers regarding her health and future
- Kevin Kissinger, Doug and Nancy's grandson



- Lori Cloud's father: pneumonia and some confusion
- Dianne Haley's cousin, Heather Martindale: cancer, chemo, surgery, and just lost her father.
- Nancy Jones' cousin Larry Rigsby
- Ora Holt
- Linda M.'s friend, Sandra: cancer and chemo.
- Conkling family: Tammy with COVID
- Travis Y. feeding tube complications
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela, paralysis, surgery, recovery, and rehab
- Trelitha Bryant
- Zapata's teenage friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Linda M.'s niece

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.

Only the King Makes the Rules

The book of Romans begins with a presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—ending in chapter 8 with “no condemnation for those *in Christ Jesus*” (8:1) and how we “overwhelmingly conquer *through Him who loved us*” (8:37).

But as Paul ends on this thrilling note, a serious question arises (ch. 9) for the Jewish believers in Rome, “What about my unbelieving family? What about the nation of Israel? Will they be lost?” Could all these good, dear people “...to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh...” (Romans 9:4, 5) really be lost for not believing in Jesus? It’s a question Paul could really identify with, “For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (Romans 9:3). You can almost hear his great heart breaking.

Paul answers this question compassionately—but truthfully—by reminding them of a familiar set of Bible stories, but with applications that they probably hadn’t realized before. He starts with Abraham (Romans 9) who had several sons (e.g., Ishmael), but *only* Isaac was the “son of promise”. What was wrong with Ishmael? Nothing; however, God’s choice was God’s choice. Then, Paul reminds them of Isaac’s twin sons, Esau and Jacob; and that it was Jacob who was chosen to be the father of God’s chosen people, Israel—not Esau. And Paul continues with additional stories (Pharaoh), a parable (the potter’s choice), and a quote from Hosea (“...I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, ‘MY PEOPLE...’) to make the crucially important point—it is **God alone that makes the choices about salvation and chosenness**. Salvation, Paul teaches, isn’t by Mosaic law, Temple sacrifice, bloodline, or sincerity (Romans 10:2). It is based on faith in Jesus Christ (and all that faith includes) by the choice and edict of the Lord. Paul is essentially saying, “Wish whatever you want to wish for Israel, with as much earnestness as you can muster, but God has chosen (1) to include the Gentiles and (2) salvation would be through Jesus.

And the principle still stands true today, and ironically so does the problem—with a twist. The twist is that the problem is not Jewish in nature anymore, but Gentile. Many Christians are deeply concerned for their beloved family and friends.

Many of us could say right along with Paul, “that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart” (Romans 9:2) for their souls’ salvation. But the principle remains the same, the fulfillment of God’s promises remain as much His unilateral, royal prerogative as it was in Paul’s day. And the hard truth is that salvation will not be by (1) “the sinner’s prayer”, (2) “receiving Jesus into your heart”, or (3) being a good person. Neither are salvation choice truly determined by the religious traditions of persuasive preachers, by intellectual theologians, by decisions of religious convocations, by being married to a Christian, by being the child of a religious family, by church attendance, or by any other human device. **Chosenness and salvation—forgiveness, grace, hope, inheritance, and glory—are God’s sovereign choices, not ours.**

As Paul continues through Romans 10 and 11 he teaches 1) that Jews who had not believed in Jesus had been pruned off of the cultivated “Olive Tree” of the Lord (11:17ff) in favor of believing Gentiles, 2) that it had actually been predicted by the Lord, but 3) that not all hope was lost. Jews could still place their faith and obedience in Jesus Christ and be grafted back into God’s “Olive Tree” (11:23,24). So also with family and friends today. Hope—the only hope—continues to be in believing in and obeying Jesus, the sole Chooser of the conditions of salvation and chosenness.

Today as we struggle with our personal feelings, fears, and hopes for family, friends, and good people of various religious persuasions, we must keep uppermost in our minds that...

- Jesus is the sovereign King of the great Kingdom of Heaven, God’s chosen people
- The way of salvation isn’t modifiable or adjustable
- God alone is God, we are not
- Reconciliation to Him is not on our terms, but His alone

The Lord’s criteria of chosenness remains, as always, 1) hear the Gospel, 2) believe in Jesus, 3) repent of sin, 4) confess your faith, 5) be baptized for forgiveness of sin, and 6) live a life of faithful discipleship. Anything else is a loser’s bet of our eternal soul that Jesus is not really sovereign, and that God doesn’t really have the last word.

Park Linscomb

