

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

THE CHURCH; THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD

In ***Ephesians 3:9***, the Apostle Paul describes his charge to “make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ; to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church, the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The word of God is very clear concerning the intent of the coming of Christ and the establishment of the Church. How clearly do you see the importance of the Church in this statement? The Church is a distinct part of the purpose and the plan. It is by the establishment of the Church, a part of the mystery and through the Church, the wisdom of God would be seen! The Church is as unique as the death burial and resurrection of Jesus, therefore the manifold wisdom of God would be seen through this unique body. Never seen before, totally unique in its structure; totally unique in how membership is achieved; miraculously formed on the day of Pentecost.

We also see that “the Church was purchased with the blood of Jesus” ***Acts 20:28***. It is described as the “body of Christ” in ***Colossians 1:18***; with Jesus as the “head of the Church” ***Ephesians 1:22***. It is also interesting to see the close association of the Church and the kingdom. If you remember ***Mathew 16:18-19***, Jesus mentions both in sequence one-to-the-other. In ***Ephesians 1:10***, Paul describes how that God would “gather together in one, all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and on the earth.” There is no better description of the Church, and no better way to differentiate between the Church and the kingdom. If you visualize Jesus in his heavenly glory at the right hand of God, and Jesus as the head of the Church on earth, the relationship of the kingdom and the church becomes clear. A final note about the Church can be seen in ***1 Corinthians 15:24-28***. When time has ended on earth, the Church as we know it will no longer be useful. The kingdom will be “delivered up to God, even the Father”. According to ***verse 28***, “when all thing have been subdued by him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him who put all things under him that God may be all in all”. The Church is part of God’s plan, and it is the body on earth that “Christ gave his life for” according to ***Ephesians 5:25***. In these times, we follow the example of the early Christians, and continue in the doctrine of our Lord and Savior.

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 .

THE STORM OF APRIL 4 brought a lot of damage to our auditorium — none of which was covered by insurance. If you'd like to help with the substantial cost of putting



things back together again, please find envelopes next to the bulletins in the back of the auditorium OR give online (there's a building fund option you can give to).

THERE WILL be a congregational picnic at the Zapata's home on



Picnic

May 7, a potluck sort of thing. Details to follow.

TONIGHT is our monthly Birthday Cake Fellowship after evening services. Come enjoy the fellowship and goodies.



APRIL'S MEN'S BREAKFAST has been postponed until next month, May 14. Make plans to join us and stay for the service in worship class.

OUR LADIES' "SPRING FLING" got flung! The theme was "What's in Your Purse?" and Jessica Stelzer was the speaker. It was great fun, as always. Enjoy a couple of pictures...



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 surgery for Park

NEW REQUESTS...

Prayers needed

- For Heath Peery's work project which has met many troubles, and that Heath will do the right thing.
- Lori Cloud wants our prayers for her father. He had some cognitive issues and has been in a rehab, out of his house since early January. He will be going home and be placed on Hospice. Lori and her brother

pray that they are making the best decision for him and their mother.

Remember these often:

- Trudy R. recovering from a hospitalization to receive antibiotic treatment for the infection in her jaw.
- Tom Roberts will need a quadruple bypass soon. Nancy is still suffering with shingles
- Margret T. as she spends a few weeks with her son David in Stephenville TX.
- Please pray for Johnny Vaz's mother, Victoria Vaz.
- Ora Holt
- Our continued search for a part-time youth minister
- Doug Jones' brother, Don Jones, is suffering with cancer
- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our elders, deacons, and preacher

Long Term Requests

- Lori Cloud's father: cognitive confusion
- 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

- Apr 24, 1 Kgs 15-17
- Apr 25, 1 Kgs 18-19
- Apr 26, 1 Kgs 20-22
- Apr 27, 2 Kgs 1
- Apr 28, 2 Kgs 2-4
- Apr 29, 2 Kgs 5-7
- Apr 30, 2 Kgs 8-9
- May 1, 2 Kgs 10-12

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.

Stained Glass Words — "Covenant"

You see the word covenant in the Bible quite a bit, but not that many 21st century folks are really familiar with the term or the concept. That's too bad, because it is one of the great words of the Scriptures that describes to us the real relation we can have with God and with one another.

Some modern folks might define covenant as a promise, and they'd be partly right, but it is different and so much more than a promise, a contract, or even an oath. It is far more binding and more sacred — and sacred not only because it is witnessed and held to account by God to a covenant, but also sacred because it includes the highest and noblest loyalties of mankind, family.

Examples of covenant in our modern day would include marriage and adoption — although clearly the covenant of marriage has often been demoted to little more than a dispensable legal contract these days.

In other cultures, however, especially in the ancient world covenants were taken very seriously — whether marriage, adoption, or alliance — because family ties and its associated loyalty were taken very seriously. Covenants were routinely made between kings, usually between a great and a lesser king to seal loyalty, ensure peace between nations, and forge permanent alliances. Such covenants didn't have to be sealed with a marriage between the families of the kings to be valid — sometimes they included a blood sacrifice (e.g., Gen. 15:17) — but they often were, because these were family ties. The assumption was that you don't violate family loyalty or family welfare through aggression or deceit.

But the covenant also usually contained certain stipulations and requirements mostly laid down by the greater king toward the lesser king — usually annual tribute and armies in time of war. But the lesser king also gained benefits from the greater king: peace with the greater king (and the prosperity that this often brought); and help, if attacked by another country.

However, covenants weren't made just between kings, they were also made between friends and

families. David and Jonathan made a covenant between them (1 Sam. 20:14-16) to do no harm to Jonathan's family after David assumed the throne. And David kept that family obligation, that covenant, so that when men came bragging that they had killed Saul (2 Sam. 1:11-16) or Ish-bosheth (2 Sam. 4:8-12), David had them killed — family loyalty. And in other cultures, there is such a thing as "blood brotherhood" which transforms the relationship between people from friendship to family with all the loyalty and duty that family calls for.

So, how does this help us understand covenant as the Bible uses it? The almighty God of the universe has not desired to merely command and force obedience on us, His creatures; He has offered to us covenant, relationship, family ties. He made a covenant with Abraham on the basis of Abraham's faith and obedience to give him Canaan and make of him and Sarah a great nation. He made a covenant with Israel at Sinai at the giving of the 10 commandments, (a covenant, which they broke — Jer. 31:32). And God has now graciously made a new covenant with the saved (Heb. 8:6-13).

This new covenant is sometimes described as a marriage between God and the church (Eph. 5:22-33 & Rev. 21:2). Sometimes it is described as being brothers of Jesus (Heb. 2:11), or as being adopted (Rom. 8:15), or as heirs of God (Gal. 4:11), or as our being of the household of God (Eph. 2:19 & 1 Tim. 3:15). Bottom line: because of covenant, we are God's family.

This is what makes it possible for us to call God our Father and one another brother (though we have no blood relation). And this great and sacred covenant is guaranteed by our absolutely faithful God Himself, who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), in the person of Jesus — "so much the more also Jesus

has become the guarantee of a better covenant" (Heb. 7:22).

The only potential hitch is us. Once we are in covenant through faith and baptism, we must remain faithful, loyal, and obedient sons of the covenant (Heb. 10:29).



