

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

THE THING ABOUT GRACE

Has God ever lowered His standard to meet the needs of the people? We are told to Repent of our worldly ways and find the pathway of righteousness that is beyond the “strait gate” referred to in **Matthew 7:13 & 14** “which leads unto life...”.

Many will try and justify their current lifestyle under the umbrella of God’s Grace. Let’s spend just a moment considering what the grace of God is. Certainly the textbook answer is unmerited favor; certainly we cannot do anything to gain our salvation without Christ; certainly, God could have destroyed all of mankind as he started to do in **Genesis 6:5-7** because “*the thoughts and intents of his heart was only evil continually*”. The same could be said of our current evil ways. Instead of simply destroying all things, God devised a plan for reconciliation through the death burial and resurrection of his only begotten Son. It is because of this plan that we should come to understand the grace that God has so lovingly bestowed upon this and all generations. You see, it is by the grace of God that we have the ‘opportunity’ for salvation. There are those that tend to believe that by the grace of God we HAVE salvation. I submit to you, that by the grace of God, we have a means by which we CAN have salvation. Truly, the Bible does not give any indication of salvation by the efforts of an individual that would circumvent the plan of God. It is only through Jesus Christ that we have the hope of salvation; **John 14:6, Acts 4:12**. It is only by the ways and means of God that we have any hope for salvation. It is by the simple plan that God has given BY HIS GRACE. There are no shortcuts, and no part of the plan can be skipped, otherwise, the plan has not been completed.

Even though some will say that this teaching ‘limits’ God’s grace. Let us consider this, in order to be obedient to the will of God, we must understand it and place emphasis where God places it (**Ephesians 5:17**). Consider Nadab & Abihu who offered ‘Strange fire’ which was not of the perpetual fire of the temple. The grace of God has provided a means by which we can find salvation, but understanding and obedience to His will is our responsibility; not a WORK, but a responsibility. If we turn our attention to the New Testament, we can see that both Jesus and the Apostles explained the plan very clearly. Even though many today wish to place emphasis on a few verses that are included in the plan of God, it is the complete plan that has been given. Obedience means that we follow the instruction given in God’s Word in its entirety not in partiality.

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 .

LADIES' ACTIVITIES

- The last "Keep in touch" ladies' meeting will be Aug. 23 at 10AM. Dianne will do a "Neema Baby Rescue Home" presentation. We'll have lunch afterwards. All the ladies are invited.
- The fall ladies' Bible class will be the following Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 10AM. Make plans to be there for a great time of learning God's will and having fellowship.

A HOMECOMING EVENT in October of this year. Details are yet to be determined, but should be coming soon.

OUR USUAL MONTHLY WEDNESDAY NIGHT SINGING is now quarterly — every 5th Wednesday of a month. Our next singing Wednesday will be August 31.

THE LEADERSHIP MEETING usually held the second Sunday of a month is postponed to August 21.

CLEVE STAFFORD, the preacher in Pittsfield MA, the church where we'll be sending a mission team, will be preaching for us on August 28. Be sure and be here and get to know him.

JESSICA STELZER is quite sick with COVID. Please pray for her and

that the rest of her family doesn't get it.

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

CHUCK TOOLEY is out of the hospital, but has been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a blood cancer that effects the bone marrow. Please pray for Chuck.

THE PITTSFIELD MA MISSION EFFORT: Several will be helping in a Gospel meeting this fall, Sept. 25-28. The group that is planning on going includes 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.

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...

Thanksgivings

- For Chuck T's release from the hospital.

Prayers needed

- John Bautista has COVID
- Dianna C.'s cancer marker have gone up
- Susie C. and infected ears
- Recovery from eye surgery for Ora Holt
- Isela H.'s Jeff Barnett with stage 4 brain cancer.

Remember these often:

- Please pray for Johnny Vaz's mother, Victoria Vaz.
- 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

- Aug 14, Jer 26-27
- Aug 15, Jer 28-30
- Aug 16, Jer 31-32
- Aug 17, Jer 33-35
- Aug 18, Jer 36-38
- Aug 19, Jer 39-41
- Aug 20, Jer 42-44
- Aug 21, Jer 45-48



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.

Don't Be Too Embarrassed To Blush!

"Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; they did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be cast down," says the LORD." (Jer. 6:15)

There was a time in Judah's history in which conscience was becoming an "endangered species". Despite the numerous rebukes from God and His prophets, God's people had managed to deaden their consciences enough that they were no longer ashamed of their sins and wouldn't even blush, when their sin — Jeremiah calls it their "abomination" — was brought to their attention.

Sadly, in our own times, conscience and blushing seems to be even less common. Think of the things that our culture has generally lost its conscience about: sexual morality, the value of life, the limits of appropriate language and even topics of conversation, drug usage, alcohol abuse, nakedness, violence against the helpless, and much more. Indeed, the only times I have actually seen worldly people blush in recent times has been when they are accused of blushing! Imagine, blushing because you are thought to have a conscience!

Well, there's no doubt about it; Satan has been working pretty hard at deadening, callousing, and reforming our consciences over the last 50 plus years. But part of the blame is ours, too; we often haven't worked all that hard at cultivating a good conscience. Yet conscience is a vital part of maintaining our spiritual walk.

The Bible tells us that God has given all men an instinctive conscience (Romans 2:14,15), which has been a great blessing to the social order of mankind. Like physical pain, it says that something's wrong. But generally speaking we often don't like it so much, because it counsels us against giving in to temptation (Romans 7:22-24); and then haunts us in pain, when we ignore it.

It is not just an instinctive thing, however; the conscience can also be educated (or miseducated) by parents, peers, society, and Scripture. The Scripture will always be spot-on, and sometimes the parents, peers,

and society will mold the conscience correctly; but despite what Jiminy Cricket advises about always letting "your conscience to your guide", often our consciences are miseducated, misdirected, and sometimes bullied into silence by those same parents, peers, and society.

And this is why we need Scripture to provide a consistent and true compass pointing to the good and the right. One of our current cultures greatest mistakes has been to neglect the true compass of Scripture and opt for the corrupted compasses of "Modern Family", celebrity opinions, or the latest reality TV show. The best deterrent against a corrupt conscience is regular, daily Bible reading. Educate your conscience with the divine standard of God's word.

Maintaining a good conscience also includes not violating it (Romans 14:22, 23) and not ignoring it, when it hurts (Ephesians 4:19). The more we violate it, the more callous it tends to become, the easier it becomes to ignore it, and further away from God we drift. And this is how the world in which we live has gotten to the point of forgetting how to blush. It's not that they have no

conscience, they do. It's not that they never knew how to blush, they did at first. But as violation of conscience happened again and again, the callouses built up and now it is as if they have no conscience at all — they don't flinch, they don't hesitate, and they certainly don't blush about sexual morality, the value of life, the limits of appropriate language and topics of conversation, drug usage, alcohol abuse, nakedness, violence against the helpless, and much more.

Do you remember how to blush? You may be jeered at, mocked, and made fun of when you do; but in God's eyes it is a badge of honor. May our consciences always be sensitive to God's way and resistant to the corruptions of the world.

Park Linscomb



