

# 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

## SINGULARITY OF THE LORD'S CHURCH

I pray these spiritual notes are helpful, to direct to a stronger faith in God, trust in the name of Jesus Christ, and a deeper appreciation for the inspired word of God. I know that our teaching does not necessarily appeal to some, because their ideas will be different in what they may have thought or have been taught. I listen to many preachers through different mediums, and do not agree with much of the subjective teaching they deliver. It is very important to both you and me that we teach nothing but the simple truth concerning the Gospel and avoid any influence from the direction given by denominational creeds.

It seems to be more popular today to be part of a “non-denominational” organization. Many have turned away from conventional religion, not wishing to be labeled with a name other than “Christian”. I appreciate the notion; I don’t want to be labeled with any other term either. However, the Lord’s church is not a denomination, rather it is the result of faithfully following of the truth. In **Romans 1:16**, Paul said, *“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”* If we accept the teaching of the Bible, it should be rather obvious that we should be promoting the Gospel *without fear, without regret, and with enthusiasm*. If we believe the Bible to be the word of God, and if we believe that God has all authority in religious matters; why would we not follow **Ephesians 4:4-6**? This verse says we should, *“endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, There is one body, and one Spirit even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in you all.”*

Some want to think that this verse means that we are all children of God, all pursuing the same salvation; all going to the same place; but that we are supposed to be segregated in our belief and in our practices. However, if we look at **1 Corinthians 1:10**, we find the Apostle Paul teaching something different as he gives instruction to the congregation of the Lord’s church at Corinth. Look at what he says: *“I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; But that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”*

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 .

**BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST** — Isela Hughes was baptized into Christ Sunday morning, Aug. 21, after studying with the Haleys for several months. Welcome our new sister!

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

### THE LEADERSHIP MEETING

- Our mortgage on the building and loan we took out for flood repairs have been combined and will cost us about \$345 more per month.
- We decided to purchase the services of a web company who promise to get Rock Hill a higher place on Google searches.
- Homecoming — Park is putting together a brochure for us all to distribute
- We talked about instigating more inter-congregational gatherings, like singings, etc.

**A HOMECOMING EVENT** has been scheduled for Oct. 16 — spread the word.

**BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY** — this Sunday evening we'll all gather and celebrate all the birthday in the month of August. Come enjoy this wonderful feast of food and fellowship.

### OUR QUARTERLY WEDNESDAY

**NIGHT SINGING** is this Wednesday, August 31.

**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:** 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.

**LADIES' ACTIVITIES** The fall ladies' Bible class will start Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 10AM. Make plans to be there for a great time of learning God's will and having fellowship.

**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

- Aug 28, Ezekiel 9-12
- Aug 29, Ezekiel 13-15
- Aug 30, Ezekiel 16
- Aug 31, Ezekiel 17-19
- Sep 1, Ezekiel 20-22
- Sep 2, Ezekiel 23-26
- Sep 3, Ezekiel 27-28
- Sep 4, Ezekiel 29-31

*Exercise daily. Walk with the Lord.*

# A Word of Encouragement

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"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.

## Rend Your Hearts, Not Your Garments

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In Acts 24 Paul has been brought to Caesarea in protective custody to stand trial for allegedly bringing a Gentile into the Temple courts past the "dividing wall", which separated the court of the Gentiles from the courts belonging only to Israelites. The hearing in Caesarea ended without a judicial decision, until Lysias (the commander who arrested Paul) could be brought to give his testimony in person to the Judean governor, Felix. Now Felix was widely known as a cruel, corruptible (bribes), and even murderous ruler. But while Paul was being detained, Felix summoned Paul to hear "about faith in Christ Jesus" (v. 24). So, Paul — never one to pass up an opportunity to preach the Gospel, even to such a man as Felix — started discussing topics like righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come. Paul's teaching must have been both vivid and convincing, because old conscience-calloused Felix became rightfully frightened and famously said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you" (v. 25).

Felix was shaken. Doubtlessly, the many sinful things he had done, which he had suppressed in his conscience to hopefully forget about, had been enlivened and brought back to painful memory. At that moment he had an important choice to make; he should have chosen repentance, but instead his decision was to stop hearing about how he needed to change and temporize, put things off to a more convenient time, a vague "some day". As far as history records, Felix remained an unrepentant unbeliever until the day he died. Sad.

But Felix hasn't been the only one, who has made such an eternally grave decision. Putting off repentance has been "justified" over the millennia with a lot of excuses and alternate solutions to the problem of our sins, and God's message of righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come.

Like Felix, some seek to put off repentance and following Jesus until later, after they've had their fun, then after they've established a career, or after they've started a family, after the kids get a little older and can endure worship services, etc., until one day it's too late and the last opportunity has been squandered.

Another alternate solution is to take refuge in supposed personal piety: "I'm not really a bad person; I

do this, I contribute to that, and I never do those terrible things." Trusting in their own righteousness, and hoping against hope that God will "grade on the curve" and overlook their "little" faults, the Gospel never brings them to the point of true repentance. But the Scriptures are clear that even one sin is spiritually fatal, and personal piety will never be good enough in the judgment (Romans 3:23); only one righteousness (Jesus', Romans 6:21) results in salvation — and that requires (among other things) real repentance.

Others take refuge in popular opinion and the wisdom du jour. "Surely, so many people couldn't be wrong! What's God going to do, condemn all those people? I just can't believe that!" They hope to hide in the crowd and persuade God — I suppose — that the kingdom should really be a democracy. But the kingdom is no democracy and Jesus taught (Matthew 7:13, 14) that the majority will be morally or spiritually wrong and won't be allowed into Heaven.

Still others offer God "half-sorrow". Paul explained and warned against such a worldly sorrow ("I'm sorry I got caught") rather than a godly sorrow leading to salvation (2 Corinthians 7:9-11). Professions of *worldly* sorrow are only empty words, devoid of action. On the other hand, *godly* sorrow is always accompanied by *changes* in living.

It is this godly sorrow that Joel commands in Joel 2:13, where he says, "...rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil." Tearing one's clothing was and still is a middle eastern way of outwardly demonstrating sorrow, grief, or outrage. And apparently, some in Joel's day were tearing their clothes, but God wanted more than a superficial demonstration empty of real change; God wanted truly contrite (rent) hearts that would issue forth in really turning away from sin and turning toward God.

God's Gospel message still contains calls for righteousness and self-control, and warnings about the judgment to come. The only real choices are repentance and non-repentance. We know which choice Felix made, which choice many people make. Which choice will you live?

Park Linscomb

