

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
- Doug Jones
- Scott Wallace

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Reubush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

The Substance of Faith

The first element of God's design for salvation is that we develop 'FAITH'. Faith is something of a mystery in that it cannot be bought or sold; it cannot be canned or bottled: it cannot be measured by physical means of weight or length. Although FAITH cannot be considered a 'substance' by scientific methods, it is defined in Hebrews 11:1-3 as both substance and evidence.

Faith is given substance by belief and by hope. "Through Faith, we understand that the Worlds were framed by the Word of God." By faith, "we lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset us and run with patience, the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2 The substance of FAITH manifests itself in those that believe in the unseen God, making FAITH the evidence of that which is yet to be seen in the 2nd coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Faith manifests itself to those in Matthew 22:37. "that Love the Lord our God with all the heart, with all the soul, and with all the mind" and to those that hold to a firm belief in the establishment of the Church: and of the eminent judgment that is to come.

Faith is placed in the proper priority by the inspired writer in Hebrew 11:6 wherein the Bible says, "without Faith, it is impossible to please Him, for they that come to God must Believe that He is (God), and that he is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Faith has no substance to those who do not believe in the existence or the power of God; for those who show no interest in Spiritual things: for those who place no value in the salvation of their soul. Their status before God is foretold throughout God's Word. John 3;16-18 states that, " he who believeth not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the only begotten Son of God." Their state is pre-determined by their neglect of all things righteous, and they are destined to take their place in the "everlasting fire" that is spoken of in Matthew 25:41.

Furthermore, the Bible says in Romans 1:17 "the just shall live by Faith"; Faith in God; Faith in the Word; Faith in the Gospel; Faith in the Plan, and Faith in the promise of eternal life through obedience. It would be unfair to mention such an important topic, without identifying the source of our faith...it is actually pretty simple. According to God's own word, Romans 10:17 "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God....Amen.

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 YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY was not just fun it was also good works in the name of the Lord. Thanks to all the youth who did such good work and to the adults who helped and guided these young people in this fun and service project.

THE MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING is scheduled for Dec. 18, at 4PM in the fellowship hall. Elders, deacons, and preacher, please mark your calendar and be present.

BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY — Because Dec. 25 is Christmas, we'll have Birthday Cake Sunday this Sunday, tonight. Come enjoy the fellowship.

SUNDAY SERVICES, DEC. 25, 2022 — Since Christmas falls on Sunday this year, the elders have opted to alter our usual meeting time to 11AM for worship, no Bible classes. For those unable to make 11AM, there will be a service at 6PM for the Lord's Supper.

ON THE FOYER TABLE There's a new report from the church in Pittsfield MA in the foyer. Pick it up and get encouraged.

CHILDREN'S HOMES COLLECTION will begin Nov. 30. Please see Linda S. for info and giving. The proceeds will be split between

Christ's Haven and Foster's Home for Children.

OUR NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM

We are collecting food and household items to contribute to various food banks in the area. There is a list of suggested items and collection tubs in the back of the church building by the water fountains. If you would rather contribute money, a money jar is on the table for your convenience. Please keep this outreach effort in your prayers.

GIVING OPTIONS — please be aware that there are now several ways to contribute. The collection plate will continue to be passed, but we also have online options at our website, rhcoc.org.

PRAYER LISTS...

Prayers needed

- Susie Chaisson's mother passed away Wednesday. Please pray for her and her family. If you'd like to do something for the family Susie asks you donate to the children's home fund.
- Emma R. as a new Christian
- For Brooke and Logan Campbell, strength to continue caring for their mother
- Dianna Conkling's undergoing chemo (to finish in March) so, prayers are still urged.
- Hugh R.'s sister Andrea, who was re-hospitalized for pain in her chemo treatment.
- Sue Carter: please pray for more health improvement
- Chuck T. cancer treatments

Remember these often:

- Isela H.'s friend Jeff with stage 4 brain cancer.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- 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-IN-A-YEAR

- Dec 18, Hebrews 5-8
- Dec 19, Hebrews 9-11
- Dec 20, Hebrews 12-13
- Dec 21, James all
- Dec 22, 1 Peter all
- Dec 23, 2 Peter all
- Dec 24, 1 John all
- Dec 25, 2 /3 John/Jude all

Religion is meant to be bread for daily use, not cake for special occasions.

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.

The World Still Doesn't Recognize Him

Over the last couple of weeks we've been taking a look at the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus, the Savior. We've noted that a lot of fundamental things about humanity haven't changed, since that time: "Wise men still seek Him", "Evil men are still troubled by Him", and (today) "The world still doesn't recognize Him".

One of the more famous parts of the story of Christ's birth is when Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem and found no room at the inn. It is often pointed out that we frequently fill our lives up with lesser things, so that there continues to be "no room left in the inn" of our hearts for Jesus. But I think there's more to this story.

When you think about it, you really can't blame the innkeeper. Joseph, Mary, and the unborn Jesus arrived at the Bethlehem inn without reservations, and neither did they carry any credentials as the "holy family". Mary and Joseph came looking poor, common, road-weary, and a little bit desperate. They didn't look the way you would expect the parents of the Messiah of the world to look — no halos, no royal robes, no tiara, no soft hands, not even a secret service detail (at least, not one you could see). It is no wonder that the innkeeper found no room for such ordinary-looking people.

Similarly, when Jesus began His ministry, He was overlooked. The Jews, who were certainly looking with great anticipation for the Messiah in the first century, had certain expectations that had nothing to do with God's reality. They were looking for a regal looking king, a steely-eyed military commander bent on restoring a united Israelite empire of David and Solomon, defeating all the enemies of the Jews, and ushering in an unprecedented age of peace. Jesus, on the other hand, came looking like a common, working-class fellow, who associated with fishermen, tax-gatherers, and other peasantry. He came gathering no armies, defeating no Romans, and He mostly just taught about the Kingdom and righteousness like a poor, itinerant rabbi. What the Jews of Jesus' day should have been looking for (but didn't) was "the times" (Matt. 16:3), the "forerunner" (Lk. 1:17), the miraculous signs (Matt. 11:5), the prophetic fulfillments (Matt. 1:22), the message, and the resurrection (Acts 2:27). Instead, looking for all the things He wasn't, they overlooked the King of kings. You usually find only what you're looking for.

Interestingly enough, people still don't recognize Him. People may not have the exact same misconceptions of the Messiah as the first century Jews, but the misconceptions they do have still hide Him from their eyes — they see only what they're looking for. For example, the world looks for a god and messiah of only undiluted love and grace. They seek a god and messiah who isn't really interested in things like morality and holiness, who will accept and smile down upon anything offered in worship, for whom doctrine and unity are irrelevant, for whom diversity and inclusion are the greatest good, and who — although full of bluster and empty threats — wouldn't hurt a fly. And since that's the sort of "jesus" that they're looking for, they miss the real Jesus. When the real Jesus comes to men of today in the Gospel as the real God and Messiah that He is — rightfully expecting obedience; full of love and grace, but also full of justice and judgment; concerned with holiness, righteousness, doctrine, truth, unity, and worship as He has commanded; who originated the idea of "the chosen"; and who simply never issues an empty threat — such a Jesus is dismissed out of hand. Modern men think, "That sort of Jesus just couldn't be the real one." So, they reject the real Jesus — the Jesus they need to save them — and seek for and worship a "jesus" of their desires who will do them no good.

It would seem that we human beings always want the messiah that we want, not the Messiah that He is — the One we need. We want a god that can be modified and customized to meet our tastes and desires, but the God of the Bible remains exactly who He always was, is, and will be — immutable. The Hebrew writer tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Finding "room in the inn" only for a messiah that they wanted was doubly catastrophic for many of the Jews of the first century — looking for a "messiah" that would free them from Rome, they rebelled against Rome twice, and were crushed twice — while overlooking the Savior of their souls. Finding room in the inn of our hearts for the "jesus" we want will inevitably be just as disastrous for us, eternal separation from God. On the other hand, recognize and accept Him as the God, Lord, and Messiah that He is, and the outcome is eternal life.

Do you have "room in the inn" for the real Jesus?

Park Linscomb

