

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The 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

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

Deacons:

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

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

GRACE, NO SUBSTITUTION FOR OBEDIENCE

A great misconception held by many is in the application of "grace" (unmerited favor) as it is used in the word of God. In many instances, it is the excuse of those who resist repentance of their secular ways. It is easy to quote **Ephesians 2:8-9** "for ye are saved by grace..." with no regard for verses like **2 Timothy 2:19-21** which says in part, "Let everyone who nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity...if a man therefore purge himself (from dishonor) he shall be a vessel unto honour and meet for the Master's use, and prepared to every good work."

The Apostle Paul understood that people as early as the time of his preaching had begun to depend upon grace as unconditional pardon for their sin. The results of this will always be to the detriment of change and the need for repentance. Many will quote the book of Romans as the definition of grace through faith (read **Romans chapter 5**). However, the context is made more understandable when **Chapter 6** is considered as well, and at the same time. Chapter 6 is the very Chapter that can be used as an advocate of baptism in salvation's plan.

Paul says in **Romans 6:1-6** "shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid....therefore we are buried with Him by (thru) Baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised from the dead...even so we also should walk in newness of life." **Verse 6**: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." The entire Plan of God represents "the new man". Sin was dealt with on the cross, and forgiveness is found through obedience. Through the grace of God, we have a plan that can provide us with salvation. Grace IS NOT a cover up for a unrepentant and disobedient person! God, 'who knows the heart' is not tricked by sinful intents that bring on sin.

As far as 'falling from grace', I would suggest **Hebrews 6:4-6** "...it is impossible (not possible) for those who were once enlightened...and partakers of the Holy Ghost...if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh and put him to an open shame." Grace is a wonderful blessing from God, but there is no substitute for obedience.

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 visiting our congregation, welcome! Please fill out a visitor's card and put it in the collection tray as it is passed. 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 .

YOUTH EVENT — TODAY! after morning worship services all our youth from grade school upward are invited to a hot dog roasting, s'more toasting, corn-hole boasting (contest) good time.

LEADERSHIP MEETING — This afternoon at 4PM.

THE LADIES CLASS meeting this Tuesday, but will “recess” during the holidays. Stay tuned for the announcements about when this class will resume.

CHILDREN'S HOMES

CHRISTMAS FUND — Linda S. will start collecting money for this annual good cause.

THE LADIES ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE will be Monday, Dec. 4 at 6:30. The sign up sheet will be on the ladies' table under the calendar board.

THANKS— to Fernando for preaching this past Sunday evening, while Park and Charles traveled to Lubbock to interview some possible summer youth interns.

FREIDA R. is home from the hospital. Pray for her continued recovery.

THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH

We have an ongoing monthly benevolence program to help the Berkshire County church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. See Trudy R. to contribute.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Zeke Rodriquez asks for prayers as he was recently diagnosed with PTSD and depression. He is also having problems getting help from the VA.
- Zeke also asks for prayers for his sister in law Carmen Rodriguez. She is losing her eyesight due to Macular Degeneration.
- John Smetzer asks for prayers for Rose Smetzer as she was diagnosed with Pneumonia on Friday. She has been sick for several days.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Our two new Christians, Cooper Roberts and Peyton Stafford.
- Alene Turner asks prayers for husband Lynn and daughter-in-law Roberta Turner. Lynn has cancer that occasionally keeps him from worship. Roberta is nearing the end of a long term illness and in hospice in Victoria TX.
- Diana C. for cancer treatment changes
- Sue Carter: digestive problems
- Freida R. at home
- Bonnie D. broken shoulder and, struggling; Suzanne as she cares for her mother
- Fernando Z's father, Ramon
- Sandy L's sister, Lisa, in hospice care in Mississippi

- The Turner's daughter in hospice
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Isela Hughes' ...
 - sister Griselda Walters
 - friend Jeff, cancer
- Sarai Lyons' friend Tiffany M.
- Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our congregational leaders

LONG TERM REQUESTS

- Bonnie B.
- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- The Zapata's friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Ken C.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Nov 12, Acts 4-6
- Nov 13, Acts 7-8
- Nov 14, Acts 9-10
- Nov 15, Acts 11-13
- Nov 16, Acts 14-16
- Nov 17, Acts 17-18
- Nov 18, Acts 19-20
- Nov 19, Acts 21-22

“God will either give us what we ask for in prayer, or give us what we would have asked for if we knew everything God knows”

Tim Keller

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.

WHAT'S THE BEST THING FOR ME?

In the Garden of Eden, part of the serpent's deception to Eve was placing doubt in her mind about God's will being the best thing for her and Adam. Satan accused God of an evil motive of simply not wanting Adam and Eve to be wise like God Himself. And things haven't really changed all that much, have they? Even today we can read through Scriptures that correct us or threaten to change us and Satan still whispers in our ears very familiar charges, "Aw, really? That's not living! God is nothing but a cosmic killjoy!"

Is it true? A lot of people in the world think so, and maybe you've been tempted, too. Let's think about it.

First, this is God we're talking about here! The God who has provided for us life and everything that sustains it and lots of nice things that make life pleasant and pleasurable. His nature is and always has been kind and generous and helpful (for example, Gen. 2:18 and Deut. 6:24). His nature is the essence of goodness, and not only does He seek not to do us harm, but He actually seeks to bless us and do us good. He has our very best interests at heart. The ultimate proof is that He gave His only begotten Son to die in our place for things that we have done. Would a God who has done us so much good really be trying to squelch our good times? The nature and character of God teaches us that we may be certain that His commands are the best thing for us to do.

But we should also hasten to add that God's words are tested—look at the results of the lives of those who obey. 2 Samuel 22:31 tells us, "As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is tested; He is a shield to all who take refuge in

Him." It is true; tested by millions over thousands of years in cultures all over the world, God's words have been found good, right, and beneficial. God, you see, is actually far, far wiser than any man (when's the last time you created a working universe?); we shouldn't be surprised by this, but somehow we are. It is sad and ironic how men foul up their own lives and the lives of others and then try to blame God (see Prov. 19:3). God's words are truth (Psa. 19:7 / Psa. 119:160 / John 17:17). And even the world recognizes it in its soberer moments.

There's a deliberate challenge found in Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." If you really try it, it will be obvious to you. An old invitation hymn has a verse that runs this way, "But we never can prove the delights of His love, until all on the altar we lay. For the

favor He shows and the joy He bestows are for those who will trust and obey." And it is so true.

Psalms 8 is a meditation and a parable all wrapped up in one, comparing the incredible perfection, fit, and beauty of the visible universe to the perfection and beauty our lives would be, if we were to simply be as obedient as the universe. Satan's lie about God's evil motives to limit us and keep us down is just as false as it always was. But let there be no doubt in anyone's mind—in every situation, in every season of life, in every decision you need to make—God's way will be best for you. Not necessarily easier, but always best

Deuteronomy 4:5-8 — "See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him? Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

