

# THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



## Spiritual Maturity

One of the great Spiritual encouragements is in **Hebrews 12:1-2**, where the Bible says, *“let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that so easily besets us, and let us run with patience, the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our Faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...”*

Consider **Hebrews 5:13-14** where the Word teaches that we as individuals should practice what is preached. Look at **verse 13**, *“everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe...But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”*

The Bible gives us the instruction in righteousness that we so desperately need. It is full of practical and daily instruction for how we should be living in the eyes of God. It is our Heavenly Father looking out for the salvation of our eternal soul!

God is telling us the standards by which we will be judged. It is not His wrath, it is His Grace! He is not trying to hold to some standard that cannot be achieved. He has given us a moral standard that is sacred. A moral standard that is complete and lacks nothing.

What does it take for us to identify the spiritual need that we have today? The Apostle Paul said in **II Corinthians 6:17**, *“come out from among them and touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you.”*

In **II Timothy 2:19-21**, Paul gets personal when he says, *“The lord knoweth them that are His. And let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”*

We cannot live just any way we wish and be pleasing in the sight of God. If we do not hold ourselves to the moral standard of God, we cannot be acceptable to Him. The Word is the basis of Christianity. Without obedience, there is no acceptance. Paul said in **Acts 17:30** that, *“in the times of ignorance, God winked at....but now commandeth all men every where to repent.”* (The Word of the Lord sometime stings just a little....but it always brightens the way.)

Doug Jones

## 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

# 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 ELDERS, DEACONS, AND PREACHER** are meeting today, at 4PM. Got anything that you'd like discussed by our leaders? Tell it to one of them for discussion.

**A SERIES ON THE ELDERSHIP...** is continued today. Take notes, ask questions; this is important stuff. **YOUTH MINISTER SEARCH** — Jonathan and Lacy Crowell will interview for our youth minister position next weekend, Feb. 25-27. Young people and their families will have an opportunity to meet with him and his wife after Sunday morning worship at a pizza lunch.

**THE NEXT CHRISTIAN MEN'S SERVICE CLASS** will be Feb. 26 — on songleading. The rest of the schedule looks like this...

- March 25 — Prayer leading
- April 30 —



The Lord's Supper

- May 28 — Preaching 1
- June 25 — Preaching 2
- July 30 — Preaching 3

Come, learn how you can be of greater service to the church here at Rock Hill.

**THE LADIES' CLASS** meets in the fellowship hall each Tuesday at

10am. This Tuesday they'll be delivering goodies to our shut-ins.

**THE "KICK-OFF" OF CARE GROUPS** will be March 20. After March 20<sup>th</sup> morning worship services, we'll all meet for a potluck and afterward will meet in our separate Care Groups. **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

- Ora Holt
- Bonnie Davidson's niece, Brenda Gordon, who fell with several complications; now at Parkland
- Mark Berhstrom, friend of Elizabeth, back surgery
- Sherry Joy: encouragement regarding her health and future
- Kevin Kissinger, Doug and Nancy's grandson
- Nancy Jones' cousin Larry Rigsby
- Rita Wallis (Nancy J.'s cousin), husband Monroe just passed away
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela, paralysis, surgery, recovery, and rehab
- Maxie Savage (cousin of Nancy J.) also has COVID and AFIB
- Lori Cloud's father: some confusion

- Dianne Haley's cousin, Heather Martindale: cancer, chemo, surgery, and just lost her father.
  - Travis Y. feeding tube complications
    - Linda M.'s friend, Sandra: cancer and chemo.
    - Linda M.'s niece
  - Conkling family
  - Trelitha Bryant
  - Zapata's teenage friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Remember these often:**
- brethren in India

- the churches in New England
- our elders, deacons, and preacher

### Long Term Requests

- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Bonnie B.
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon
- Cheryl F.
- Ann S.

## WE'RE A BIBLE-READING GROUP.

**FOLLOW THE SCHEDULE AND READ THE BIBLE THROUGH THIS YEAR — AGAIN.**

- Feb 20, Num 19-21
- Feb 21, Num 22-24
- Feb 22, Num 25-26
- Feb 23, Num 27-29
- Feb 24, Num 30-31
- Feb 25, Num 32-33
- Feb 26, Num 34-36
- Feb 27, Deut 1-3

See what new things you can pick up out of the Bible this time through!

# 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.

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## For the Fall and Rise of Many

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After Jesus' birth in a stable and waiting the required period of time for Mary's purification (40 days), Joseph and Mary did what every set of Jewish parents did after the birth of a firstborn male-child; they traveled the 5 miles from Bethlehem to the Temple to perform the purification sacrifices for Mary (Lev. 13), present their firstborn son to the LORD, and then redeem Him with 5 shekels (Numbers 18:15,16).

While they were there, they experienced a couple of amazing things, prophecies from two separate individuals who were eagerly expecting to see the Messiah. One of them was an old man named Simeon. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would see the long-awaited Messiah before he died. In the Spirit, Simeon came to the Temple that day and setting his eyes on Jesus, it was revealed to him that this was the Child that would be the Messiah.

Luke 2:34, 35 *"And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed-- and a sword will pierce even your own soul--to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'"*

On first reading this passage, it's a little mysterious. That's often enough to give us a good excuse to just skip this part and move on; but there's something important here that we should reflect on.

This wonderful Child, Simeon tells us, would not be welcomed by everyone. Many would stumble over Him—just as the Psalms foretold, (Psalms 118:22, 23) "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief corner stone. This is the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes." And this is exactly what happened. Jesus pointed this out specifically about Himself in Matthew 21:42.

On the other hand, the Messiah-Child would also grow up to be the cause for many to "rise". Isaiah 28:16 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.'" The term that Simeon uses, "rise", was a reference to salvation and spiritual resurrection (John 5:25 and Romans 6:3-5).

But sadly, the emphasis of what Simeon says is on the "fall", since he goes on to declare that Jesus would be a "sign" to be opposed or spoken against. What does he mean by Jesus being a sign? Well, prophets and what they did were often referred to as a sign (for example, Isa. 20:3

or Ezek. 12:6); they themselves and what they were doing were a message for the people. And of course, they and their message from God were often opposed and spoken against—Jesus, even more than others, because of the claims He made. And this is where it gets really interesting.

Simeon prophesied that this Child, the Christ, would be opposed "to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." In other words, opposition to or submission to Jesus would make plain the side that a person is really on—God's or their own. You see, people make a lot claims about about what they believe and whose spiritual side they're on, but the heart that resists (opposes) Jesus is really resisting God—His word, His way, His salvation, His redemption, His life, and His promises. The heart that submits to Jesus, on the other hand, is really submitting to God and His way. Many of Israel's religious leaders and their followers hated, resisted, and finally crucified Jesus—demonstrating their treacherous "devotion" toward the God they claimed to worship. On the other hand, there were many who loved, submitted, and followed Jesus, revealing their true loyalties.

And Jesus is still the Revealer of men's hearts, whether among Jews or Gentiles. Our response to Him—submission or omission to His word—is the X-ray machine of our hearts about our thoughts toward God, even if we say we are church-goers, "spiritual", or lovers of God. Our response to Jesus—obedience or convenience—pulls back the veil about our true priorities, our spirituality vs. our carnality, and our love or apathy toward God, regardless of our claims and facades.

The choices Jesus still demands of us remain clear-cut. Jesus in His typical honesty long ago told us, "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters" (Matthew 12:30). William Barclay said it well, "Towards Jesus Christ there can be no neutrality. We either surrender to Him, or are at war with Him. And it is the tragedy of life that the pride of man keeps us from making that surrender, wherein is victory." Our response to Him must be submission to His salvation (contrasted to one of our own foolish imagination), making Jesus our priority (as opposed to a mere religious hobby), and a faithful discipleship to Him (contrasted to an "obedience of convenience"—when it doesn't interfere with what I want).

Choose Jesus—and rise.

Park Linscomb

# FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:00 AM Bible classes</li> <li>■ 10:00 AM Worship</li> <li>■ 4:00 PM Leadership meeting</li> <li>■ 5:30 PM Putting legs on our prayers</li> <li>■ 6:00 PM Worship</li> </ul>		<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #999; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     Chris S. 🙏                 </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 10:00 AM Ladies class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 7:00 PM Wed. Bible class</li> </ul>		<div style="background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid #999; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     Interview youth minister, Jonathan Crowell                 </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:00 AM Men's leadership class</li> </ul>	

## SERVICE IN WORSHIP

February 20	AM	PM
<i>Announcements</i>	Burley S.	Burley S.
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J.	Yaw F.
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Jim B.	Fernando Z.
<i>Communion</i>	Yaw F.	Charles H.
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Chris S.	Ralph L.
<i>Greeter</i>	Reiven H.	Reiven H.

February 20	AM	PM
<i>Announcements</i>	Charles H.	Charles H.
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J.	Doug J.
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Yaw F.	Burley S.
<i>Communion</i>	Burley S.	Fernando Z.
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Hugh R.	Jim B.
<i>Greeter</i>	Reiven H.	Reiven H.

## Digital ways to keep connected...



**Streaming:** Sunday, Bible class at 9AM; Sunday Worship 10 & 6; and Wednesday Bible class at 7PM

- [www.rhcoc.org/worship.html](http://www.rhcoc.org/worship.html)
- YouTube: search for "rhcoc"
- Facebook

**Our website:** [www.rhcoc.org](http://www.rhcoc.org)  
**"Rock Hill Reflections"** 2x weekly on Facebook

**Email:** [rhilchurch@gmail.com](mailto:rhilchurch@gmail.com)

**Park's website:** [parklinscomb.com](http://parklinscomb.com)

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### Sermon Notes...

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