

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill church of Christ

9426 PGA Pkwy

Frisco TX 75035

(972)347-1919

rhcoc.org • rhilchurch@gmail.com

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 Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

MISCELLANEOUS SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for '**B**asic **I**nformation **B**efore **L**eaving **E**arth.'"



There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."



There is the story of a preacher who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."



People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

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 .

THE MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING has been delayed until next Sunday (Dec. 21) at 4PM. If you have something you'd like the elders, deacons, and preacher to discuss for the church, please bring to the attention of any of the church's leadership.

CHRISTMAS EVE falls on a Wednesday this year and the elders have decided to forego meeting for Bible study that evening to enable family time.

NEW YEAR'S EVE falls on a Wednesday this year, so the elders have decided to do something a little different. We will meet at 7PM as usual and have a time of devotion to God, but will be meeting in our fellowship hall instead of the auditorium. We'll also enjoy a time of fellowship, games, food, and fun until midnight — if you can last that long. Bring along whatever snacks you'd like to share with all. Join us for an

evening of devotion, fun, and fellowship.

LADIES' CLASS — The gathering will resume at the church building on January 13, Lord willing.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST was yesterday and we learned some little known facts about Christmas. The next men's breakfast will be January 10

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY Series — If you didn't get a chance to attend this great series on marriage and family, or if you just want to review it again, you can see it on the church's YouTube channel in a playlist called "Marriage and Family".

THE CHURCH'S WEBSITE has gotten a fresh new look. Check it out and share with others www.rhcoc.org

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Burley S. and his India work, returning Feb. 11
- Freida Rose failing health at Medical City McKinney
- Adalae S. broke her arm this week
- Susie Chaisson recovering from knee replacement Monday.
- Lynn Turner is in Belle Terra rehab in McKinney. This is due to two fractures in his spine and a cracked rib.

- Burley S.'s son, Burley Jr. recovering from heart ablation
- Nancy J's brother awaiting further testing
- Linda Curry for her Afib
- Stetson Kissinger, fractured

leg

- Esther Myrick, low blood count
- The Staffords, our missionaries in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, granddaughter Peyton living with them.
- Churches in New England
- Brethren in India
- Our leaders, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregation.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

- Elizabeth's cousin Tracy with Lupus, and also her cousin Debbie
- Isela H's sister Griselda's illness
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- Travis Y. feeding tube

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Dec 14, 1 Timothy 4-6
- Dec 15, 2 Timothy all
- Dec 16, Titus/Philemon all
- Dec 17, Hebrews 1-4
- Dec 18, Hebrews 5-8
- Dec 19, Hebrews 9-11
- Dec 20, Hebrews 12-13
- Dec 21, James all

Share God's
Word



Left unsolved, mistakes get bigger not better. - Dan Reiland

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.

MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN MISINFORMED ABOUT BAPTISM

Last time in this bulletin space I talked about misinformation that people often have about God, Jesus, and the Bible. I started, since it is the Christmas season, about the misinformation that people often have about the magi at Jesus' birth. That piece of misinformation is relatively harmless, but there are other things that people don't bother to check against what the Bible really has to say. What's more, even some folks that have bothered to read the Bible don't always incorporate all that the Bible has to say about it. To put it in, I hope, a memorable way, they know SOME of what the Bible says about a topic, but not necessarily the SUM of what it says. Like in the story of the magi, they may know about the magi's visit but not about the other details of the story.

Baptism, for example, is something that a lot of people know a little bit about — that it's a Christian ceremony — but all they know about it is SOME. But let's briefly talk about the SUM of biblical teaching about baptism.

For example, baptism is not sprinkling. The Bible teaches that it is immersion in water. How do we know this? Well, first of all, the word baptism is an English version of a Greek word, *baptidzo*, which means to immerse or plunge beneath the water. There are other Greek words for "sprinkle" and "pour". But there are other reasons by which we can know that baptism is immersion besides just the Greek word. For example, Romans 6:3,4 which tells us, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4 NAS95). You don't bury someone by sprinkling a little dirt on them, you place them completely under the ground. We even have an example of a baptism in which, "... he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him." (Acts 8:38 NAS95). There would be no need for both Philip and the Ethiopian to go into the water, if the water were only to be sprinkled or poured, but immersion would require it. Baptism by sprinkling or pouring is not biblical, it is misinformation.

Another piece of misinformation about baptism is its importance. It is widely thought and taught that baptism is an optional ceremony for a Christian. This misinformation started with Luther who was teaching against a Catholic doctrine of salvation by works, but in doing so, went to the extreme other end of the pendulum and taught salvation by faith alone. Ever since then there has been a misunderstanding of baptism's role in salvation. Make no mistake, salvation is by faith, just not by faith alone. The book of James teaches, "You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone." (James 2:24 NAS95). Instead, the Scriptures teach that baptism is for the forgiveness of sins. Peter taught, "'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38 NAS95); and Ananias told Saul of

Tarsus, "'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'" (Acts 22:16 NAS95). And if forgiveness of sins is important to getting into Heaven, it makes sense that baptism isn't an option, but a necessity.

Some folks also think and teach that baptism is a work of salvation; this is also misinformation. A work of salvation is something that is done that MERITS or earns salvation. The truth is that there is no work of merit for salvation. The very fact that we are told that our salvation is a gift (grace, Romans 11:6) eliminates anything that we could do to earn it. Baptism is simply obedience, the right response to a command of God — like faith (John 6:28,29), repentance (Luke 13:3) or confession of faith (Romans 10:9,10). Baptism is an outcome of real faith, because real faith always motivates us to obedience. While baptism is an action, it should be observed that it is a passive action — that is, it is something done to us rather than something we do. And nowhere are we told that baptism is work of salvation; rather, we are told that it is when we can know that our sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16). When you are given a gift, there is nothing in the act of unwrapping the gift that earns the gift, it is still a gift — so also is baptism, the point at which we receive forgiveness, salvation, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is not a work of merit; such an idea is misinformation.

There's also a lot of misinformation about the purpose of baptism. Some folks teach that baptism is a ceremony to join the church. Still others teach that the purpose of baptism is to follow the example of Jesus. And still others teach that it's just something that is a good thing to do. But such purposes are not found in Scripture — and by the way, it does make a difference for which you are baptized (Acts 19:1ff). Baptism's most elementary reason is forgiveness of sins and reception of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19), which means we are baptized to put under their authority. We are also told (Romans 6:4, 5) that we are raised from baptism to live a new kind of life, because we have become united in baptism with Christ. The result of these things is that we are saved (1 Peter 3:21) and we are added to the church by God Himself (Acts 2:47).

There's some misinformation about who can and should be baptized; that infants can be properly baptized. But since faith in Jesus, repentance of sins, and confession of faith are required before being baptized, infants (incapable of any of these things) are not eligible. Moreover, since they have no sin (Ezekiel 18) they have no need for it.

Don't be misinformed by popular opinion, hearsay, or confident assertions about baptism, let the only authoritative source of spiritual matters give you the straight scoop, the Bible.

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00AM Bible classes ■ 10:00AM Worship ■ 5:00PM First Sunday singing practice ■ 6:00PM Worship 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00AM Ladies' Bible class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00PM Wed. Bible class 	Suzanne D 🙏		

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Week of December 14AMPMWed.

AnnouncementsJim BJim B
 Song LeadingDoug JScott WReiven H
 Opening PrayerTom RCharles H
 CommunionReiven HMarty K
 Closing PrayerScott WTom R
 A/V ControlCharles HJohn SScott W
 GreeterYaw F

Week of December 21AMPMWed.

AnnouncementsCharles HCharles H
 Song LeadingScott WDoug JCharles H
 Opening PrayerReiven HRon M
 CommunionYaw FJohn S
 Closing PrayerCharles HHugh R
 A/V ControlScott WCharles HJohn S
 GreeterJim B



Sermon Notes...
