

# 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

### Deacons:

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

### Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

*"We're Here  
and We Care"*

## SPIRITUAL TIDBITS — A HIGH CALLING

There is a rather obscure verse within scripture that 'sprang up' to me while re-reading God's Word (a form of study). Not having recalled the impact of the verse, it stopped me from reading further while contemplating the words and subsequent meaning. It seems to help in understanding when we ask ourselves what the intent and/or purpose of such phrases could or should be. This particular verse caught the eye of a brother in Christ, who took great joy in being reminded of **1 Corinthians 4:1**.

It was a wonderful experience, having a faithful brother in Christ get excited over such a simple verse. Because it is easy to overlook a simple truth and quite possible to live a life without having noticed the level of responsibility it identifies. God said He would appreciate and eventually reward us for living as, "good and faithful servants". I trust we each are striving to separate ourselves from the influences of the world while taking great care to live 'in the Spirit' as Paul writes in **Romans 8:1-8**.

**Romans 12:1-2** makes a really good "daily rehearsal verse". It reminds us that *serving God with our lives is our "reasonable service...as a living sacrifice...not conformed to this world,... transformed by the renewing of our minds*. Furthermore, the inspired writer adds, "that ye (you & me) may prove, by the lives we lead, what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." This is very important because the world, regardless of their claim, does not know what that good and acceptable and perfect will of God is according to the Word provided for us.

The simple verse in **1 Corinthians 4:1** says this: "Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God". Sure, Paul is talking about himself and the other disciples of the day. However, we must accept the personal responsibility of God's intended meaning that we also are included in this calling! He said this way in **Ephesians 3:10**, "to the intent...that all should know...by the church, the manifold wisdom of God."

The references in your Bible probably clarifies some of the words used in **verse 4**, making it sound like this; "Let a man consider us, as the servants of Christ, and stewards of the hidden truth of God." It is a high calling and intended for us all.

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 .

**THE MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING** is today (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.

**LAVONIA COOPER** died this past week and her funeral will be at the Rock Hill church building Monday (tomorrow) at 12 noon. Visitation will be in our fellowship hall at 11. Burial will be after the funeral in Lewisville.

**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.

**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](http://www.rhcoc.org)

### OUR PRAYER LIST...

- The Cooper family in their grief in losing Lavonia
- Elizabeth's niece Shayna Wheatley died suddenly on Friday. Please pray for her family.
- 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 oblation
- 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 C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- Travis Y. feeding tube

### READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- 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
- Dec 26, Revelation 1-3
- Dec 27, Revelation 4-8
- Dec 28, Revelation 9-12

For 2026 look for a new Read-the-Bible-in-a-year schedule; it will start with the New Testament

# 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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## MAYBE YOU'VE BEEN MISINFORMED ABOUT GOOD WORKS

**W**e've been thinking about ways in which people have often been misinformed in this bulletin space. We've touched on a topic (the Magi) that was interesting, though not critical; but then last week we talked about how there's a great deal of misinformation about the much more crucial issue of baptism. But there are other pretty important spiritual topics about which there is a whole lot of bad info; and one of them is the place of good works.

It is an extremely common misunderstanding that one may somehow be good enough to cancel out sinful behavior. How often I've heard someone say something like, "I know I'm not perfect, but I do a lot of good things, too; and I'm pretty sure that I'm in good standing with God." Folks that say such things have been misinformed.

Let's start with the truth that you can't earn your way to Heaven. The Bible tells us, "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Mankind has been told since the beginning of time (Genesis 3), that only death can pay for our sins. Nevertheless, what mankind has chosen to believe over and over again is that good deeds can pay for our sins. We like to think of God's judgment as being like a great balance; on one side is put all our sins and on the other side is all our good works. If the good outweighs the bad then the assumption is that we are judged as good and we get into Heaven. The problem is that it is a human scheme of redemption and not God's. What God has said is, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9 NAS95). In other words, the idea of being good enough to cancel out your sins is rejected by God. If you have ever sinned, there is no amount of good works that will be able to save you. You cannot earn your way to Heaven.

But some religious folks will go to the opposite extreme on this point and claim that there is nothing but faith, sheer belief, that will save us. But this too is misinformation. James tells us, "But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? ... You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. ... For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead" (James 2:20-26 NAS95). True faith will always include good works, obedience. True faith will initially lead a person to repentance (Acts 2:38), then to confession (Romans 10:9,10), then to baptism (Acts 2:38), and then to discipleship (Matthew 4:19). It is the natural response of

real faith; what I really believe to be true, I will naturally act upon. Those who say they believe, but in whose lives there is no good works, really have only an opinion about Jesus; they don't really believe.

Paul urged Titus to press the congregations in Crete to be zealous for good deeds (Titus 2:14), ready for every good deed (Titus 3:1), be careful to engage in good deeds (Titus 3:8), and engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs (Titus 3:14). And this can be important for modern Christians to be properly informed about too, because it can be too easy to think that all the good works of the church are being taken care of by church leadership. Not true! These things apply to every disciple.

As Christians we need to have an attitude of zeal (enthusiasm) toward good deeds, as opposed to being lazy or neglectful. Having been given a new kind of life to live in Christ, we ought to be enthused about living it, and that includes good attitudes, an active search for good things to do, and even being an encouragement to others to join in.

We are to be ready for good deeds. To be ready means to be prepared. We might be zealous to do good, but unless we prepare, our aspirations will remain mere aspirations. How do you prepare? Perhaps set aside money for helping the poor, perhaps learning how to serve in some special way, or perhaps making yourself available and making the Lord's business a priority.

We are to be careful to engage in good deeds. This encouragement to Titus to give to the Christians on Crete was to be sure to be deliberately looking for such good deeds. The Christians of Crete (just like us) could get so caught up in daily living that doing Christian good deeds can "fall right off the radar", thus we need to be careful and deliberate in doing them. Boy Scouts make a point to try to do one good deed a day; how about you?

And Paul lastly encouraged them to prioritize pressing needs in their good works. Some needs are greater than others and we need to learn to properly assess and address the more important ones.

Misinformation comes sometimes from personal wishes, sometimes from misinformed others, but the truth comes from God's word. Don't be misinformed about good works...

- They can't save you
- But you don't really have saving faith without them

Park Linscomb

# FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 9:00AM Bible classes</li> <li>■ 10:00AM Worship</li> <li>■ 6:00PM Worship</li> </ul>		Margeretta F. 🙏	Cleve & Melinda S. ❤️ Eldon & Mary L. ❤️	Martin K. 🙏 No Bible class tonight, family time	Christmas Day 🙏		

## SERVICE IN WORSHIP

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### **Week of December 21 .....AM .....PM .....Wed.**

Announcements ..... Charles H..... Charles H  
 Song Leading ..... Scott W ..... Doug J..... Charles H  
 Opening Prayer ..... Reiven H..... Ron M  
 Communion ..... Yaw F ..... John S  
 Closing Prayer ..... Charles H..... Hugh R  
 A/V Control..... Scott W ..... Charles H... John S  
 Greeter..... Jim B

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### **Week of December 28 .....AM .....PM .....Wed.**

Announcements ..... John S ..... John S  
 Song Leading ..... Doug J ..... Scott W ..... Reiven H  
 Opening Prayer ..... Marty K..... Doug J  
 Communion ..... Chris S ..... Jim B  
 Closing Prayer ..... Scott W ..... Ralph K  
 A/V Control..... John S ..... Scott W ..... Charles H  
 Greeter..... Hugh R



Sermon Notes...

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