

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill church of Christ

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Frisco TX 75035

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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"*

The Power of Telling Your Story

The Gerasene demoniac's life was a living nightmare. The legion of demons who now controlled him had destroyed him and left him with nothing. His demons had robbed him of his mind, good judgment, and common decency. They had left him without shame; he had worn no clothes for a long time (Luke 8:27). They had taken him away from his home and family; he now lived in the rugged mountains east of Galilee and among unclean tombs (Mark 5:5). He had become violent, so that no one traveled that way anymore (Matthew 8:28); and as a result men had tried to capture and bind him with chains, although with the strength of the demons he would simply break them (Mark 5:3,4). In his torture and lack of self-control, he had become self-destructive, gashing himself with stones and screaming among the tombs where he lived (Mark 5:5). By all appearances and common sense, he was a lost cause.

Except, Jesus entered the picture. Jesus cast out all his demons into a herd of swine, who ran into Lake Galilee off a cliff; and the demoniac's nightmare was over. Suddenly he had his mind, his good judgment, and his common decency back. He was now sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind (Luke 8:35).

Sadly, the local townspeople ask Jesus to leave out of fear. So Jesus began to leave; but naturally the former demoniac asked the Lord, if he could go with Him. There was nothing wrong with that, but Jesus had a more important task for him: "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you."

Obediently the former demoniac "went away, proclaiming through the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him" (Luke 8:39). And what a story he had to tell! It would have been riveting, to say the least, as he spoke of his confusion, his pain, his shame, his violence, and helplessness — but then of what Jesus had done for him. And while few or none would have had a demon possession experience like his; they would have been able to identify with the confusion, pain, shame, guilt, violence, and helplessness from Satan's deceptions and the sin in their lives. They would want to learn more about this Jesus of Nazareth; more about His power over even legions of evil spirits; more about the sanity, the decency, the goodness, and the peace that He could bring. Many would want to seek Him and many would find Him.

And same strategy works today. A few in our own age might find an evangelistic appeal based on doctrine moving, but **many** will find what great things God has done for you more attractive. Of course, your story is not "the Gospel", but it's a great place to begin. This is not about entertaining people with how bad you used to be, but rather about what God did for you and what He could do for them, too. The book of Acts records no less than three accounts of Paul's conversion from a persecutor of Christians to a Christian missionary; and when Paul tells us that his conversion from persecutor to apostle was a perfect example for those who would believe in Christ (1 Timothy 1:15,16), we can safely assume that he had told the story many, many times.

We often complain that we don't know where to start, when it comes to evangelism. Why not take instruction from this story of the Gerasene demoniac and tell your story about what great things God did for you — and could do for them. You'll be surprised at how easy getting to the Gospel might be from there.

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 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

- Expenses were mostly in line with expectations this time of year, although our weekly contribution income was a little low. Nevertheless, some special gifts helped us maintain our cash on hand.
- Holiday goodie bags were distributed among our shut-ins and widows from the congregation, and they were received with big smiles.
- The next men's breakfast will be January 10 at 9AM. Plans were made to make the encouragement portion of the breakfast some instruction and encouragement in worship leadership, especially for those who don't have much experience. Doug will be in charge of the food.
- Follow up studies continue to be conducted among some newer Christians, but it was pointed out that some others have not been taught much further than the essentials and need to be incorporated into some follow up class.
- Scripture reading will be added to our regular Sunday morning worship schedule just before the sermon.
- Since we are considering putting TV monitors in all our classrooms for educational purposes, Burley

will be working on making sure that our wifi signals are strong.

- We're working on having a spring meeting using several area preachers on the theme "Great Passages in Romans".

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.

A NEW READ-THE-BIBLE-THROUGH-IN-A-YEAR SCHEDULE is on the table in the foyer. This one will start in the New Testament first and then go to the Old.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS — This adult class will soon be finishing up 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. A new study on the book of Ephesians will begin probably January 4

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

LADIES PLANNING MEETING is January 5 at 6:30PM

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

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- The Hays Family has asked for our prayers as they are fighting covid.
- 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 Jan. 7

- Freida Rose failing health
- Adalae S. broke her arm, healing
- Susie Chaisson recovering from knee replacement
- Lynn Turner is in Belle Terra rehab in McKinney.
- Burley S.'s son, Burley Jr. recovering from heart oblation
- Nancy J's brother in very serious condition
- Linda Curry for her Afib
- 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 28Revelation 9-12
- Dec 29,Revelation 13-16
- Dec 30Revelation 17-19
- Dec 31Revelation 20-22
- Jan 1Matthew 1-4
- Jan 2Matthew 5-6
- Jan 3Matthew 7-9
- Jan 4Matthew 10-12

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 CHURCH

It was once thought that the internet would be a great and limitless source of information right at your fingertips. The problem has become, however, that along with good information is also a ton of misinformation. Anyone with a computer and some crazy idea can disseminate his "information" as easily as a genuine expert and authority. And this is obviously pretty dangerous in many regards, not the least of which is in regard to faith and religion. Last week we debunked the misinformation about baptism; this week let's consider misinformation about the church.

One of the most common these days is the misinformation that the many "churches" of the world (denominations) are OK with God. But Jesus Himself has a very different idea, "that they may all be **one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You**, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:21 NAS95). Unity, oneness like the Father and Son, is the ideal for the church. Different groups, teaching and believing different things, worshipping different ways, and living different standards of morality are the polar opposite of what Jesus expects of His church. Paul reinforces this teaching, when he wrote,

"And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ...until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God... no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine," (Ephesians 4:11-14 NAS95)

The misinformation is that denominationalism is OK, the truth is that it is not.

A related piece of misinformation about the church is that you should go to the church of your choice. This was a common phrase put onto billboards in the 60's, "Go to the church of your choice this Sunday." This false presumes that denominationalism is OK, when it is not. On the surface the encouragement to go to church is fine, but the rub is the phrase "of your choice", as if God is happy with whatever your preferences are — you get to choose acceptable worship, authority, morality, and message. That God is so desperate to be worshipped that (like a politician) He's ready to embrace anything to get your "vote". But this approach to is fatally flawed by the false idea that the Kingdom of God is a democracy; it is not. Jesus said, "'I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build **My** (emphasis added) church..." (Matthew 16:18

NAS95). The right church belongs to and obeys the Lord; the correct version of that phrase is "Go to the church of **Christ's** choice this Sunday." It does matter what is taught, "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2 NAS95). The church's authority does matter, "And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18 NAS95). It does matter the moral standards that you adopt, "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10 NAS95). This misinformation is that you can legitimately choose whatever church you fancy; the truth is that we must choose Jesus' church.

And yet another common piece of misinformation about the church is that it is dispensable. Perhaps you've heard some folks say, "I'll take Jesus, but you can have the church." Sometimes this comes from the observation of corruption in groups that call themselves a "church". But it also comes from what often seems like an insurmountable search for the right church. Doubtlessly, groups that call themselves a church have given the notion of church a 'black eye', but that shouldn't cause us to forget church anymore than some corrupt people should make you give up on people. But if you don't give up on church because of some bad actors, you will be faced with choosing the Lord's church out of hundreds. How will you ever study enough doctrine and theology to make a good decision? Well, it may be easier than you'd think.

Since baptism by water immersion in the name of Jesus for forgiveness of sins is not a common belief — and yet it is a Scriptural requirement for becoming a Christian and being added by the Lord to His church — you can eliminate all but a small handful. Now take that handful and see which of them worship God as He has commanded, with a cappella singing and weekly Sunday communion. Now the number is very small. From that point you might be able to easily choose the Lord's church.

Misinformation is really just another way to say a lie. Don't let the world lie to you and misinform you about the most important things in this and the next world.

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			New Year's Eve 🕒	New Year's Day 🕒		
			Devotional and fellow- ship evening			

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Week of December 28AMPMWed.

AnnouncementsJohn SJohn S
 Song LeadingDoug JScott WReiven H
 Opening PrayerMarty KDoug J
 CommunionChris SJim B
 Closing PrayerScott WRalph K
 A/V ControlJohn SScott WCharles H
 GreeterHugh R

Week of January 4AMPMWed.

AnnouncementsBurley SBurley S
 Song LeadingScott WDoug JCharles H
 Opening PrayerTom RCharles H
 CommunionJim BMarty K
 Closing PrayerCharles HReiven H
 A/V ControlScott WCharles HJohn S
 GreeterYaw F



Sermon Notes...
