

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"*

THE TEMPLE TRANSITION, PART 8

I trust the transition is becoming more apparent as we review these verses and we are able to more clearly understand the scriptures concerning the New Covenant in Christ. The New Covenant was purchased with His blood, but the revealing of the Plan was described in what the apostles wrote while guided by the Holy Spirit...more specifically, Jesus completed His part on the cross; **John 19:30** "...it is finished." Of course we know that the final completion of Jesus' part came when He "entered into His glory" **John 7:39** as well as the formal announcement in **Acts 2:33**, "being by the right hand of God, exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He shed forth this which ye now see and hear..." (The establishment of the Church & kingdom, beginning of the new covenant, the coming of the Holy Ghost with new assignments)

One might ask, "What is the significance of the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) when it comes to the plan of salvation? As the third member of the Godhead, we were accustomed to seeing the Holy Spirit 'perform' the will of the Father in creation and other miraculous things that were of God. The "expanded" role of the Holy Spirit included something new. How is it in **Hebrews 8:9** that the Holiest of all in the Temple, "signifies the Holy Ghost?" Jesus answers this question in **John 14:15-26**. He tells His apostles that, "the Comforter (the Holy Ghost) would be sent from the Father; be with you forever; teach you all things; bring to remembrance all things I have said unto you."

It is easy enough to believe that miracles were performed by the Spirit (Holy Ghost) before the scriptures were written to substantiate God's power. However, this transition brings into light the 'mystery' of His eternal purpose in Christ which is the 'New Covenant'. The Holy Spirit is no longer the 'Universal' Spirit of God, but was about to become more of a 'personal' Spirit of God. **Ephesians 1:13-14** "after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy spirit of promise, which is the earnest (deposit) of our inheritance..." Access to the Father would be through Christ, but with the Holy Spirit making "intercession for the Saints with groanings that cannot be uttered" **Romans 8:26-27**. This is all new; "The gift of the Holy Spirit".

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 .

CHECK OUT THE *RETROSPECTIVE*

2024 is a quick review of what the Lord did among us at Rock Hill in the past year along with plenty of photos. You'll really enjoy it!

FIRST SUNDAY SINGING PRACTICE — is today at 5PM in the fellowship hall.

A CONGREGATIONAL VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY is Feb. 8. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so in the back today to RSVP. Today is the last day to sign up. Cost is \$10/person.

WE FOUND OUT THIS WEEK that the Bible class building has a serious animal problem (raccoon, mice, and squirrels) who have done quite a bit of damage and will cost the church almost \$10,000 to remediate. If you would like to contribute to this unforeseen problem, please see Charles H.

THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP met Saturday for planning for the year 2025 and we think we have an exciting year of activities and events. Look for notes on it later.

KENT AND AVERY (our summer interns from 2024) are joining a mission team to Cozumel, Mexico this spring. If you'd like to contribute to their work, see Rachel W

SUNDAY EVENING SERIES — We've started a new series on the parables of Jesus. This Sunday PM we'll

study the parable of the unmerciful servant. Join us and grow.

SEWING MINISTRY The ladies that are interested in this ministry will be meeting every Thursday in January from 10am-2pm. Come join them and develop and use your talents for the Lord.

JUDY I would like to have a short meeting after the services with the Ladies going on the home tour.

CAMP DEER RUN CAMPERSHIPS — If you'd like to help with sending our youth to Camp Deer Run this summer, please give any special donations to any of the elders. Registration starts soon, if you have questions, ask John S.

JOHN S would like to have a short meeting after services for all parents of children either going or who could go to Camp Deer Run this summer.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP the Pittsfield MA church? We have an ongoing monthly benevolence program to help the church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. See Trudy R. to contribute. We send \$400-\$600 monthly to their benevolent fund.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL "LOVE PACKS." We're starting to collect items for the Children's Hospital "Love Packs." We will have baskets available to put stuff in. Last year we delivered 16 large laundry baskets full of goodies. Let's try to beat that this year! The last day to bring items is Feb. 8. Our youth will meet after church on the 9th for lunch and to fill all the baskets. See Jessica Stelzer for more details. This project is an ongoing tribute to Linda Linscomb and her passion to help children and hospitals.

NEW REQUEST

• Burley S will be leaving for India Tuesday. Please pray for fruitful work, doors of opportunity, and

sustained good health and energy in the work of the Lord.

- From Juliana: Pray for Becky B., diagnosed with tongue cancer. She had surgery last Friday to remove the tumor. Pray for her and her family to include her daughters. Pray that her body will accept the transplanted tissue and she will recover quickly.
- From Elizabeth: Pray for cousin Tracy to recover from Lupus, learning to feed herself and walk again. And also pray for her cousin Debbie H who had neck surgery today.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Jim B.'s son, Jeff's wife is terminal.
- Comfort for Jim B at the passing of Bonnie, Doug J. at the passing of his sister.
- Jim W., our newest brother in Christ.
- Lynn T. is now home and hopes to come to worship soon
- Ora H home from the hospital, but still not always feeling well
- Elizabeth H's cousin, Tracy, is still in need of prayers for better health.
- Mary H is recovering at home.
- Emma's grandmother, Karla R, dementia and cancer.
- Bonnie D recovering from a minor stroke.
- Lynn T: cancer
- Sue C: digestive problems
- Ora H, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our elders, deacons, preacher, teachers, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregation.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

- Isela H's sister Griselda's illness & friend Jeff
- Carol P.

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.

THE GOLDEN CALF

In case you haven't picked up the trend, I've been writing in this space about something that you've read about, if you're following the Read-the-Bible-through-in-a-year schedule. This week, let's consider the Golden Calf incident in Israel's history

We tend to have a monolithic view of idolatry; it's all about false gods like Baal, Zeus, or Ra. But have you ever considered that it may be more far ranging than that? This week our reading took us to the relatively famous story of one of Israel's most egregious sins against God right at the very start of their "relationship", the Golden Calf; and one of the most surprising things that people discover upon a more careful reading is that idolatry isn't always about false gods.

God had already audibly spoken the commandments to the Israelites in Exodus 20. God had called Moses upon on the mountain to give him (the first set of) the Ten Commandments, written by God's own finger on stone, God's own autograph! But as Moses came down the mountain with Joshua they heard a party going on.

Why? Moses had been on the mountain a long time, 40 days — longer than the people thought that he ought to be. Maybe something had happened to the old man! But on the positive side of things, the people wanted to worship God; on the negative side, having just come from Egypt, they were bent on worshiping God with an image. They pressured Aaron, while Moses was on the mountain, to "make us a god". Aaron caved under the pressure and taking gold from their earrings, he crafted a calf to represent God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. How do we know that? Notice 32:4 where Aaron identifies the image as the God who rescued from Egypt. And look at 32:5 — Aaron proclaimed a feast to the LORD.

In case you weren't aware of it, in most Bible translations, when you see the word LORD all in capital letters or small caps, it is an indirect reference to the personal name of God, sometimes spelled YHWH. The point being that 32:5 tells us that the Golden Calf was supposed to represent the one true and living God, not some false god from one of the surrounding lands.

Wouldn't that be OK? Clearly not! Moses, upon finding out what Aaron and the people had done, threw down the newly minted Ten Commandments in a symbol of the broken commandment of God. In fact, God was angry enough at the time that He was ready to destroy the whole nation and start afresh with Moses. Moses interceded for the people, but even so there was punishment, execution, and even plague to pay for their idolatry.

The point? Despite the fact that the images that some folks still cling to are sincerely meant to represent the real God or Jesus Christ the Son of God, it is still idolatry and it is still forbidden, and it is still a serious sin.

As just a last comment, and I find it fairly humorous, because it is so typical of us human beings, is Aaron's excuse for what he did — I just threw the gold into the fire and miraculously out popped this calf (to paraphrase). We can laugh, but let's not laugh too hard, "Why do you laugh? Change the name and it could be said of you." Our excuses often sound really good in our heads, until they get seen in the light of day and we actually say them out loud or have to defend them.

- I'd have been to church, but we had company come over. (And God isn't as important as my company, and they just wouldn't understand if I were to go to church. Invite them, you say? Aw, they wouldn't want to come, I'm sure).
- I would have told him the Gospel, but I'm sure he wouldn't have responded. (This is because I can read minds, so I thought I'd just make the decision for eternity for him)
- I know I shouldn't worry about money so much, but what if God doesn't come through? (Because God is kind of unreliable, right?)

Let's abandon the excuses and just do what the Lord has commanded.

Park Linscomb

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- Dale and Lavonia C.
 - Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
 - Rosa's friend Isabella, heart lesion
 - Travis Y. feeding tube
 - Ken C.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Feb 2, Lev 5-7
- Feb 3, Lev 8-9
- Feb 4, Lev 10-12
- Feb 5, Lev 13
- Feb 6, Lev 14,15

- Feb 7, Lev 16-18
- Feb 8, Lev 19-21
- Feb 9, Lev 22-23

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00AM Bible classes ■ 10:00AM Worship ■ 6:00PM Worship 		<div style="background-color: #c0392b; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Haven B. </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00AM Ladies' Bible class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 7:00PM Wed. Bible class 	<p>Ladies' sewing ministry 10-2</p>		<div style="background-color: #c0392b; color: white; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Rock Hill Valentines Part</div>

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Week of Feb 2AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsBurley S.....Burley S
 Song LeadingScott WDoug J
 Opening PrayerChris S.....Jim B
 CommunionBurley S.....Reiven H
 Closing Prayer.....Doug J.....Hugh R
 A/V ControlCharles H.....John S
 Greeter.....John S

Week of Feb 9AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsJim BJim B
 Song LeadingDoug J.....Scott W
 Opening PrayerTom RJohn S
 CommunionCharles H.....Burley S
 Closing Prayer.....Scott WCharles H
 A/V ControlJohn SHunter M
 Greeter.....Burley S



Sermon Notes...
