

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"*

SATAN'S 2ND GREAT LIE

Last week, we did a slight side-track from the normal article to help and understand the great responsibility we have to 'guide' the congregation into deeper insights regarding the Word of God. The transition from the Judean Law to the Plan for Salvation under Christ is a dramatic step that only God Himself could have devised. Although we are all looking for a short version of "*what must I do to be saved*", Scripture only offers "*The Truth*" for which He offers no short cuts. There is not a synopsis (brief overview) for what the Plan is, even though the denominational explanation only includes "accepting Jesus and allow Him into your heart." Nothing could be further from the truth.

Satan's number one lie was "*ye shall not surely die*" (by eating of the fruit of the tree) **Genesis 3:4**. The 2nd great lie is similar and simple; "all you have to do". If Satan can convince the average person that spiritual bliss is available by such teaching, he will have opened the gate to the "*Broad Way that leadeth to (spiritual) destruction, and many there be that will go in thereat*"

Matthew 7:13. This essentially is Satan's plan, and most are perfectly willing to follow the path...thinking there is nothing more required; making no further effort to be obedient to Scripture.

Actually, the Scriptures identify a different solution altogether. In this same verse of **Matthew 7:13-14**, the inspired writer informs that the 'gate' of righteousness is a very specific (narrow) path, and few would recognize or follow it. The difference between the faith of "*believers*" and the "*obedient faith of true worshippers*" is mentioned in **Romans 16:26** and confirmed by **John 4:23-24**. It is not possible to have a level of spiritual commitment below the expectation of God to be considered a "*True Worshipper, that worships the Father in Spirit and in Truth.*"

According to the inspired writer (quoted as the words of Jesus therefore commanded by God **John 12:49**) "*the Father seeketh such (true worshippers) to worship Him.*" The children of Israel had a level of belief (faith) but were not acceptable to God. The Apostle Paul tells us why in **Romans 10:1-3** He says, "*they have a zeal of God but not according to knowledge...for they, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*"

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 .

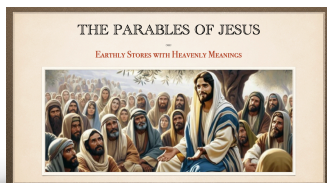
REPORT ON MISSION WORK IN INDIA — Burley will take the pulpit this morning with a report on what the Lord has done through his work in India

SUNDAY EVENING SERIES — will continue on the parables of Jesus. This Sunday PM: "The Tower and the King Going to Battle".

SATURDAY APRIL 26TH - This will be our Annual **Spring Fling**. It will be in the fellowship building at 11:00 AM. More information will be coming.

NEXT SUNDAY EVENING after church is our monthly "Birthday Cake" celebration of all the birthdays of the month of March. Come, celebrate, and enjoy the great fellowship!!

EASTER is only a few weeks away (April 20), and while we celebrate the Lord's resurrection each first day of the week, Easter is one of the two big holidays that can bring in the usually non-church going lost ones. Don't miss the opportunity to ask your neighbor, friend, relative, or colleague to come with you this Easter.



Revive and Thrive in 2025

CRITTER CLEARANCE FUND — Thanks to everyone who contributed to this. We raised about \$2000 toward the total.

SEWING MINISTRY The ladies resumes again. Come enjoy good work for the Lord by serving others and great fellowship between sisters.

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.

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.

NEW REQUEST...

- Ralph L. has undergone a stint procedure, but may have suffered a minor stroke. He's in the hospital for the weekend; please pray for a successful outcome.
- Ralph K.'s mother died suddenly in Huntsville AL. Please pray for his safe trip there and for his comfort and that of his family.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Alene T. a full recovery. Also,
- Lynn T's battling cancer
- From Juliana: Pray for Becky B., recovering from tongue cancer surgery.
- Elizabeth's cousin Tracy to recover from Lupus, and also her cousin Debbie H who has been recovering from neck surgery and setbacks.
- Jim B.'s son, Jeff's wife is terminal.

- Ora H's health
- Mary H is recovering at home.
- Emma's grandmother, Karla R, dementia and cancer.
- Bonnie D recovering from a minor stroke.
- Sue C: digestive problems
- Ora H, kidney
- 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.
- 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

- Mar 30, 1 Sam 8-10
- Mar 31, 1 Sam 11-13
- Apr 1, 1 Sam 14-15
- Apr 2, 1 Sam 16-17
- Apr 3, 1 Sam 18-20
- Apr 4, 1 Sam 21-24
- Apr 5, 1 Sam 25-27
- Apr 6, 1 Sam 28-31

Apathy is a bigger problem than atheism for Christianity.

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.

HESED (?)

This week in our daily Bible reading schedule we read the story of Ruth; it is one of my very favorite Old Testament books. There's a lot of things to like about it: wonderful loyalty, God making something good out of something bad, the actions of an honorable man, the unlikely story of David's roots, and great examples of the concept of redemption. There will obviously be much more in these 4 chapters than I'll be able to comment on — it's just too rich.

But I'll focus on the wonderful love and loyalty of Ruth. The story of Ruth is about *hesed* — family or covenant love and loyalty. In a culture in which family was everything and covenants really were the making of a family, the word *hesed* was supremely important. The word doesn't sound pretty (you have to start from the back of your throat with this word) but its concept is beautiful, and Ruth's story demonstrates it over and over again — and of all things, in the life of a foreigner.

It was demonstrated when all three of the men of Naomi's family died in a foreign land, Moab, leaving three widows — two of them Gentiles. When the famine is over, Naomi decides to return home to Bethlehem, and her daughters-in-law begin the journey with her. But Naomi points out that there was no realistic hope that she would be able to "fix them up" with new husbands back in Bethlehem; and tearfully dismisses them from any further obligation to her. Orpah does regretfully and tearfully leave to get on with her life among her own people. But Ruth clung to her... and she expresses the beautiful words often repeated in wedding ceremonies to underscore the love and loyalty of the covenant just made between a new bride and groom:

"... 'Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. 'Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me.'" Ruth 1:16, 17, NAS95.

Ruth continues the journey all the way back to Bethlehem and begins to provide as best she could for herself and her mother-in-law. By God's providence, it was harvest season, and by the Law Ruth could follow the reapers and glean (gather up the fall-out, or left-

overs of the harvesters) to eat. She chose by providence the field of Boaz (a close relative), who appreciated Ruth's loyalty to her mother-in-law and hard work in the field. He kindly (*hesed*) made sure that no one bothered her as a foreigner, and made sure that she received plenty enough to eat and share with her mother-in-law through both the barley and the wheat harvest.

Now it was Naomi's turn to show *hesed*. Seeing the opportunity for both Levirate law and redemption, Naomi gave Ruth instructions on what she should do to possibly secure her future. Those instructions sound a little forward to modern readers, but the Levirate law was an actual obligation of near kinsmen to keep a family name from being eliminated. Ruth's coming to Boaz was merely an earnest request for the fulfillment of the Law and family duty, *hesed*. Notice that Boaz recognizes this Ruth's "move" not as a sexual opportunity but as a demonstration of Ruth's loyalty to her husband and family:

"Then he said, 'May you be blessed of the LORD, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness (hesed) to be better than the first by not going after young men, whether poor or rich.'" Ruth 3:10, NAS95.

Boaz, in deference to the nearest kinsman, promises Ruth a definite conclusion to the matter that day. But when the nearest kinsman dishonorably refuses to redeem Naomi's land and obtain Mahlon's widow (Ruth), because it would "endanger his inheritance", Boaz honorably and kindly shoulders his family responsibility and marries Ruth to carry on the family name. And by God's blessing, Ruth and Boaz had a son that they named Obed, who fathered Jesse, who had a son named David.

So, next time your marriage seems too hard, next time family seems too hard and demanding, next time it would be easier to just chuck it all (in spite of all the promises you made that were supposed to last through good times and bad), the next time you think that nothing good will come out of you "grinding it out" in a bad marriage — remember Ruth; remember *hesed*; remember David. You never know what wonderful things your loyalty and love will ultimately lead to.

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN MARCH & APRIL

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|--|---|------------------------|---|---|
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| <p>Jim & Bonnie B. ❤️</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00AM Bible classes ■ 10:00AM Worship ■ 6:00PM Worship ■ 7:00PM Birthday Cake Sunday | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00AM Ladies' Bible class ■ 7:00PM Wed. Bible class | | <p>Pam H. 🎂</p> | | |

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Week of March 30.....AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsBurley S.....Burley S
 Song LeadingScott WDoug JJim B
 Opening PrayerJohn SHunter M
 CommunionMarty K.....Scott W
 Closing Prayer.....Doug J.....Hugh R
 A/V Control.....Hunter M.....Charles H.....John S
 Greeter.....John S

Week of April 6.....AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsJim BJim B
 Song LeadingDoug J.....Scott W.....Reiven H
 Opening PrayerDavid J.....Jim B
 CommunionJohn SBurley S
 Closing Prayer.....Scott WJeremy C
 A/V Control.....Charles H.....John SHunter M
 Greeter.....Yaw F



Sermon Notes...
