

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 HOLY SPIRIT AMONG US

Researching deeply into the Word of God is much like having your High School Teacher require an 'essay' question. This requirement encourages us to think well beyond the surface of our knowledge and skill-set, into the deeper philosophical realms of our thinking. It is actually to encourage us to go beyond the things with which we are more comfortable and venture into new levels of understanding. We should not wrestle against opening these channels and ask ourselves to wonder into more "*diligent practices*" (**Hebrews 11:6**) and "*Studies*" (**II Timothy 2:15**).

After all, if we consider **Matthew 6:33** a guide for our Christian walk ("*seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness*") ... how much time do we spend each week or each day in pursuit of such an objective? It is not possible that we accomplish more than the amount of energy we dedicate to it. For a guide to improved daily life, read **Romans 8:5-14**. It is a clear motivation to practice, "*exercise by reason of use*" **Hebrews 5:14**.

We have spent a great deal of time discovering together some of the connecting elements that make up the "*mystery of righteousness*". (Temple Transition, New Covenant, Holy Spirit) There is another element that cannot be overlooked. It is an area that can make the 'mystery' of righteousness confusing to many people, and that is the idea of Grace. The most-often quoted verse is **Ephesians 2:7-10**. It is commonly referred to as "unmerited favor." The context of such a statement suggests that we have been given salvation by the blood of Christ alone, advertised and taught as "faith only" (accepting Jesus as your personal savior).

If this were true, you would have just received the entirety of the "Gospel" and nothing else would be required. None of the letters written for "*Instruction in righteousness*" would be applicable. **Acts 2nd** Chapter could have been left out simply because it had no significance, and water would not have been important to the Eunuch. However, the Inspired Word as we have it today was preserved by God and provides for us, "*all things that pertain unto Life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue II Peter 1:3-4*" "*whereby, are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature...*" More to follow

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 .

SUNDAY EVENING SERIES — will continue on the parables of Jesus. This Sunday PM: “The Rich Fool”.

OC SPRING SING TRIP — Great trip yesterday! Thanks to all those who drove and for everyone's cooperation!

CLEVE AND MELINDA STAFFORD will be with us at Rock Hill this morning (March 9). We look forward to having them in our midst again. Cleve will preach Sunday morning.

MISSION EVANGELISM REPORT. Brother Burley reports that his sharing of the Gospel has resulted in 248 denominational preachers baptized into Christ (who will bring the Gospel back to their congregations) and 79 non-preachers for a total of 327 baptisms. We look forward to a more detailed report of what the Lord has done through him.

CRITTER CLEARANCE FUND — Our fellowship / classroom building has been invaded by animals and they've done a lot of attic damage. To evict them and fix the damage will cost about \$10K. If you can help with this fund, it would be a great help to our church budget. See Charles to help or there is now a fund on our online giving called “Critter Eviction Fund”.

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

Revive and Thrive in 2025

KENT AND AVERY (our summer interns from 2024) are joining a mission team to Cozumel, Mexico this spring. This congregation contributed over \$608 from individuals!

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.

LIST...

- Alene T. had a mini-stroke this past week. Please pray for a full recovery.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Lynn T's recovery from back surgery, and he's also battling cancer
- From Juliana: Pray for Becky B., recovering from tongue cancer surgery. Pray for her and her family (especially her daughters).
- Elizabeth's cousin Tracy to recover from Lupus, and also her cousin Debbie H who has been recovering from neck surgery, but has had another health setback recently.
- Burley S: Please thank the Lord for a safe return to the states and for spiritual steadfastness and growth for those he turned to the Lord in his mission efforts.
- 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.

[Jesus] suffered as God because only God had the power to save; He suffered as Man because only man owed the debt.

— Michael Horton

- 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 9, Deut 32-34
- Mar 10, Josh 1-4
- Mar 11, Josh 5-7
- Mar 12, Josh 8-9
- Mar 13, Josh 10-11
- Mar 14, Josh 12-14
- Mar 15, Josh 15-17
- Mar 16, Josh 18-20

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.

OBEDIENCE YIELDS BLESSINGS

I think I know why liberal theologians don't like Deuteronomy: it's way too black and white for anyone who'd like a heaping portion of gray for their religion. Without a doubt, the book of Deuteronomy draws a clear line in the sand about expectations and consequences. There's nothing vague about it.

If you've been following along in our daily Bible reading schedule, you'll know recognize the passage that I'm taking this bulletin article from, Deuteronomy 28 with the blessings of Mt. Gerizim and an "expanded version" of the curses of Mt. Ebal. The essence of it boils down to this simple equation: obedience = blessings.

Now, God wasn't trying to set up a works theology for the Israelites here, rather, was trying to impress upon Israel (and all the rest of us throughout the ages) the linkage between sin and death, deed and consequence, obedience and blessing. It's a simple linkage, and one for which there is abundant evidence; but it is a linkage we often find ourselves motivated to ignore to our own pain. Missing the connection is a serious mistake, because the consequences don't go away just because we've stuck our heads in the sand. God's way has always borne blessings; it comes out of His very generous love towards us that seeks our best interests. Far from God being the "Cosmic Killjoy", the truth is that Satan and sin are! They result in death, they result in pain and suffering, they end in curses. As just one example: "Family" done God's way leads to the wonderful blessings that "family" done any other way will never know. Many of the blessings of western civilization come from the fact that western civilization has been greatly influenced by Christianity's morals, ideals, attitudes, and standards.

Sadly, Israel still was a little hard-hearted or blind about to these things. Deut. 29:4 declares Israel to still be blind, deaf, and thick-between-the-ears. To paraphrase,

"Do you really think that the clothes of other people don't wear out? Yours haven't. Did you think that shoes last forever? Yours have. What did you think was happening? Did you think that the whole world goes out every morning to pick up manna? Well, they don't. Do you think that everyone who wanders through the desert finds plenty of water to drink? Think again."

And, by the way, if you've been a Christian for a while (maybe all your life), be sure not to miss the similar blessings that you enjoy. Do we think that husbands and wives just naturally behave themselves? They don't. Are you horrified sometimes at the things that you see on the news or on TV shows and think, "I'm glad that things like that only happen rarely or only on TV"? In many cases, they happen a lot, to a lot of people, who don't know the Lord. The truth is that we are often living in a bit of a sheltered world, sheltered by our obedience to the Lord's commands and the blessings to that obedience that follow. Honesty, hard work, the ideal of equality, compassion for the poor, family values, a passion for true justice, and much more have blessed even the irreligious of our culture — blessings, by the way, that have been receding over the past few decades as our culture has dismissed and disobeyed those commands as old fashioned and out of date. Because curses follow disobedience.

Obedience to God always comes with blessings. And these physical blessings are just the tip of the iceberg and a foreshadowing of God's greatest of all blessings, Heaven, obtained when we become obedient to the Lord's commands leading to salvation, and received, when the Lord returns again. And sadly but similarly, disobedience to God's commands will have spiritual consequences too, Hell.

Don't miss the connection

Park Linscomb

