

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 — THE STRUGGLE WITHIN

Living the Christian life is not the easiest thing to do. There will always be struggles that each of us must deal with. For each individual, there are 'common' issues but even more troublesome are the 'custom' struggles we may encounter that are more individual in nature; the struggles that we feel as though are reserved for us alone.

We can take heart that these individual struggles are more common than we first think. The apostle Paul made a general admission in ***Romans 7:22-23*** when he said, *"I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."* This feels like a common dilemma for all of humanity!

In the deeper realms of Christian living, we must all deal with this struggle. Paul asked for relief from God in ***II Corinthians 12:7-10*** from what he called, *"a thorn in the flesh"* to which the Lord replied, *"My grace is sufficient for thee: for MY strength (power) is made perfect (complete) in weakness."* How is it that the weakness of Paul...made him more complete? This is where the responsibility falls to us; Jesus said MY GRACE is sufficient for you...because it is MY STRENGTH (power) that helps over-come the weakness of the flesh.

I know we have heard this verse all of our lives, but the key to understanding is not so obvious. What WE tend to concentrate on is the weakness WE have, because it continues to get in our way. We think it makes us unsuccessful in our daily Christian walk because the thorn doesn't go away. Paul calls it being "tempted" in ***I Corinthians 10:13*** and confirms that (A) all are tempted (B) not to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure (C) along with the temptation, will make an escape.

The temptations we face are best resolved when we depend upon our Savior for His power and solution. The measure of this can be dependent upon our heart and the intents of it. God Knows the heart of each individual (***Hebrews 4:12***) and therefore knows our level of commitment and sincerity. The help we get from the Lord is dependent upon the level of commitment we have to live in the Faith.

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 .

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".

COAT DRIVE — Thanks to everyone who contributed to this good work.

THE LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

will be Dec. 2, this Tuesday and there is a sign up sheet in the back of the auditorium. Join us for a fun holiday gathering of the sisters of the congregation.

MEN'S

BREAKFAST — Our next men's breakfast will be Dec. 6, this Saturday, at 9AM. Come enjoy the food, fellowship, and uplift of this regular gathering.

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."
— Aldous Huxley

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

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Burley S.'s son, Burley Jr. as he undergoes heart oblation
- Nancy J's brother in Arkansas awaiting further testing
- Linda Curry for her Afib
- Stetson Kissinger, fractured leg



- Esther Myrick, low blood count
- Ken Conklin recovering for a heart oblation..

- The Staffords, our missionaries in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, grand-daughter 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 and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- Travis Y. feeding tube

Share God's
Word



READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Nov 30, 1 Cor 12-14
- Dec 1, 1 Cor 15-16
- Dec 2, 2 Cor 1-4
- Dec 3, 2 Cor 5-8
- Dec 4, 2 Cor 9-13
- Dec 5, Galatians 1-3
- Dec. 6 Galatians 4-6

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.

I AM BLIND NO MORE

A favorite song in our congregation is "I Am Mine No More". I've personally loved this song, since the first day I heard it. But somewhere in the years of youth work (this was first a sort of youth song) I heard someone add a verse that I've never seen anywhere else — "I am blind no more, I am blind no more, Jesus is my light, I am blind no more". Whether it is an original verse or not, I like the truth that it tells that is enshrined in the stories found in the Gospels of the blind being given sight by the Lord.

In John 9 Jesus heals a blind man by applying mud to his eyes and having him wash in the pool of Siloam. The miracle caused great stir, especially since he told everyone that it was Jesus who had done it. This caused Jewish leaders to interrogate the formerly blind man, which turned out poorly for the leaders, especially as the formerly blind man said,

"Well, here is an amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him. Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." (John 9:30–33 NAS95).

Later, Jesus approached the formerly blind man and the blind man confessed his faith in Jesus as the "Son of Man" and Lord.

"And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see (the truth) may see (God's light in the Gospel), and that those who "see" (believe that they have the truth) may become blind (understand that they are really blind)." Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind (not knowing or understanding the truth), you would have no sin (because you have no information or evidence); but since you say, 'We see (understand the truth),' your sin remains (because you continued to disbelieve in Him)." (John 9:39–41 NAS95).

And in just such a way people — including ourselves before we came to believe in Jesus — are often blind today to the truth.

It oftentimes happens, when Satan and the world distract us with baubles, grand sounding philosophies, sports, busyness, entertainment, and a myriad of other things to keep us from paying attention to the Gospel and the evidences that Jesus is the Christ. Using the visual metaphor, I'm reminded of the old magicians' trick of distracting the audience's attention away from where the trick is really happening.

On the other hand, sometimes people are blind because they don't want to believe in Jesus, they don't want to see. This was the problem of the Jewish leadership; they had too much to lose (position, wealth, influence, honor, etc.). And today you could add a favorite sin, the one we don't want to give up, the burden of church attendance, or how I generally conduct my life. As the saying goes, "There is none so blind as those who will not see."

But you know, there's another way to be blind — by drifting away, allowing our faith in the Lord to become inactive and grow cold. I can remember when I was in the 4th grade being taken to the eye doctor for glasses. I didn't know I needed them; I hadn't noticed my eyes going bad, because the change had been so gradual. But I do remember coming home with glasses and being amazed at the leaves on the distant trees, the distant birds in the sky, and all the other details that my eyes had been missing. I had no idea that I was so blind; it was a whole new world. This is what Jesus was telling the Laodiceans in the book of Revelation — while believing they were seeing clearly, they had gradually become blind without realizing it and needed repentance and revival.

Indeed, before we placed faith in Jesus we were blind — whether it was because we didn't know any different or through deliberate choice not to see (listen), we were blind. And by allowing our faith and love to grow cold we can become blind again. But we don't need to stay that way.

In Matthew 20 some blind men called upon Jesus to have mercy on them. "What do you want," He asked. "They *said to Him, "Lord, we want our eyes to be opened." (Matthew 20:33 NAS95). May we too have our eyes opened — to Jesus' majesty and authority, to the spiritual realities, to urgency of eternal matters, to the truth of the Gospel rather than the illusions of the world, to the spiritual and physical needs around us, and to the blessings surrounding us every day.

