

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

The bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill church of Christ

9426 PGA Pkwy

Frisco TX 75035

(972)347-1919

rhcoc.org • rhilchurch@gmail.com

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 TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE

There are a few Bible verses that are used by those who have little knowledge of Scripture. Unfortunately, these are quoted 'as Scripture' and are used to indicate their Bible knowledge and supposed love of the truth. What can happen is quite the opposite; the recipients of this remark, due to limited knowledge of scripture, accepts this as a moral standard while the actual scriptural intent or context does not work.

A good example of this is in **John 8:32**. The typical use of this verse, unbeknownst by the person quoting it, has to do with a high level of integrity and the daily, practical application of the "SUM" of scripture. The quote is "*The truth will set you free*". By using this phrase, the speaker wishes to give this message; "*I am an example of integrity and you can identify my integrity by a moral standard that is taught in the Bible.*"

Integrity actually indicates moral completeness, honesty and wholeness. A great example is in **Job 27:5**, "*I will not be removed from mine integrity till I die.*" In the face of great tribulation, he (Job) refused to lower the standard of morality that he held in the highest regard with his relationship to God. Such is the implication of those who use this verse without understanding what the intent of the verse really is.

To more fully understand, look at **verse 31-43**. Here, Jesus is speaking to the Jewish leaders, some of whom believed upon Him and some who wished to see him put to death. It was during this conversation, Jesus says in **verse 31-32**, "*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples (followers) indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" Those who use this verse are hoping to gain some credibility by stressing that they are telling a one-time true statement.

Those who live by the standard of God need not stress truth ...our lives should be a constant and continual assurance of what is true based upon God's Word. Jesus says in **Verse 31** "*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed.*"

The message could not be clearer; following the word of God results in a life of true integrity. By spiritual growth, the truth becomes more and more evident as does our home in heaven.

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 .

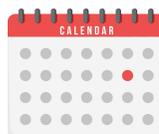
LEADERSHIP MEETING NOTES

- * Church's finances continue to be stable and even growing slightly.
- * A report on our widows and shut-ins revealed that Sue C may be moving to Alabama in the near future, Jim B will be transporting Ken C. to Dr. appointments, Bonnie now needs a ramp for the back of her house, and oxygen has made a big difference in Frieda's health.
- * Hugh is posting an interest sign-up sheet for a class on "Scams and Financial Concerns" for the congregation.
- * The next men's breakfast may include as a speaker a friend of Charles' who endured persecution for being a Christian in Saddam Hussein's Iraq.
- * Park will be doing a "Marriage Seminar" this November for the congregation and anyone interested in improving their family. Specific dates to be announced soon.
- * Congregational involvement was discussed with focus on our Bible class program. The intent is to involve more people in being teacher's helpers or substitutes. Also, we may be acquiring a bet-

ter curriculum for our classes that will better cover all of Scripture.

- * Sunny Glenn will be sent a \$600 check in lieu of actual groceries this year.
- * Jim wanted everyone to know his new address: 512 W. Elm, Celina TX 75009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- ❖ **THE LEADERSHIP MEETING** is 9/14. at 3:30 for elders and 4 for everyone else.
- ❖ **INDIA MISSION** — Today there will be a special collection for Burley's India mission work.
- ❖ **OUR NEXT FIRST SUNDAY SINGING PRACTICE** will be today at 5pm.
- ❖ **THERE WILL BE SEWING** gathering on Sept 12th.
- ❖ **LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY** has been changed from 12/1 to 12/2
- ❖ **OUR NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be September 13 at 9AM. Come and enjoy the food, the fellowship, and the encouragement.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE ABOVE AND BEYOND.

Here are some worthy projects you could support...

- **The White Rock Fund** — While the White Rock Fund could always use your contribution, there is a special reporting and fundraising event to be held at the Shawnee Trail church in Frisco on October 25. It's a great and encouraging event that comes with a free lunch.
- **CHANGE CANS** — Foster's Home for Children will be collected very soon.
- **The Pittsfield MA church** — Those who wish to provide money to the Pittsfield MA church for their

monthly benevolence fund can see Trudi R. to contribute.

BOTH WADE AND ARDITH S have moved back to Ada OK. Pray for their welfare

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Burley's mission trip top India in Sept. (and Linda at home)
- Susie C. Please pray for a quick recovery from eye surgery.
- Ardith now in hospice.
- Esther Myrick, low blood count
- Reiven and Ora H — Pray for quick and complete recoveries
- Ken Conklin recovering for a heart oblation..
- The Staffords, our missionaries in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, granddaughter Peyton living with them.
- Mary H is recovering at home.
- Bonnie D recovering from a minor stroke.
- 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

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Sep 7, Ezekiel 37-38
- Sep 8, Ezekiel 39-40
- Sep 9, Ezekiel 41-43
- Sep 10, Ezekiel 44-45
- Sep 11, Ezekiel 46-48
- Sep 12, Daniel 1-3
- Sep 13, Daniel 4-6
- Sep 14, Daniel 7-8



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.

IT'S A SCAM!...

"THE BIBLE'S TOO HARD TO UNDERSTAND"

Sadly, we're all aware of the terrible, growing trend of scammers these days. You have to be careful of emails, texts, phone calls, corner beggars, and people coming to the church asking for money to "feed their family" or "get a ticket back home" or "buy gas to get to work". Some of these requests are legitimate but many others are not; they are scams.

Scams are claims or stories that someone makes, which are false, and are designed usually just to get your money — through compassion, through scare tactics ("this is the IRS"), or through get-rich-quick promises. And although they are usually carried out by professional con artists, scams can also come in religious disguise, too. And for the next few weeks I'd like to address some of the more prominent scams of the religious world in hopes of warning faithful Christians not to be hoodwinked, but also to provide something to share with others against being "taken in" by such religious frauds. And the first flimflam that I'd like to address is the scam that "the Bible is too hard to understand". The Bible is, in fact, not hard to understand. Let me offer some logical reasons that makes it possible to know this.

First, the Bible itself tells us that it is understandable. "For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end;" (2 Corinthians 1:13 NAS95). And "By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ," (Ephesians 3:4 NAS95).

It is God, who made the mind of man, and He knows very well how to communicate with it. Our God made man's mind and gave him language to be able to communicate with other men and so God could also communicate with us. Proposing that God cannot inspire a book that men can readily understand is a little like saying that the man who programmed a computer can't really communicate with his computer. The Maker of man's mind certainly knows how to clearly communicate with man's mind.

But someone says, *"Of course God can communicate with some of us; those of us who have spent years in school to read and meditate and dig out what God has to say to mankind about salvation. That's what the experts are for, but it is not something that the average*

person can reasonably expect to do." Question: do we really believe that God isn't smart enough to communicate to even the least of us? The genius Albert Einstein is quoted as saying, "If you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough." If Einstein could find a way to simply and clearly explain things like relativity, is it really possible that our almighty God cannot explain how to be saved to **any** of us? Certainly not!

And have you thought about this? If human beings can clearly communicate with other human beings, why can't God? Wouldn't we be saying that man can do something that God cannot do? If you and I both read the same newspaper or book, wouldn't we both come away from the newspaper or book understanding the events or the same plot line? Of course we would! That's what words are for, for common understanding between people. If mere men can do this, certainly God can, too!

The real reason that people think that the Bible is too hard to understand has basically to do with two things: 1) they haven't read it and don't plan to read it or 2) what the Bible says disagrees with what they already believe and they aren't interested in conforming to the Lord's commands. A faithful Bible student who is accurately handling the word of truth is 1) a regular Bible reader of the whole Bible and 2) is ready to submit to the sum (not just some) of the Lord's will, even if it contradicts what he has believed or practiced before (Acts 28:26,27).

While there are some things in Scripture that it is fair to say are more difficult (e.g., some of Paul's writings, the book of Revelation, and some of the prophetic mysteries of the Bible), the crucially important things (e.g., salvation, patterns for the church, and godly living) are actually very clear and easy for anyone to understand. It doesn't take a scholar or priest to discern God's will found in the Bible. God has clearly told us what is right and wrong, has clearly told us how we can be rescued (saved) from sin, and has shown us what He expects from those who have committed to follow Him.

So read it and understand for yourself. Don't fall for the scam that says "The Bible is too hard to understand"!

Park Linscomb

