

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

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

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

GOD'S WORD OF TRUTH

The fact that the inspired writers composed the New Testament, not Jesus, does nothing to diminish the power of that which is written. As a matter of the facts, God's plan from the very beginning was to bring us to exact truth in the precise manner predicted and fulfilled in Scripture. Although it is difficult to imagine, we began this series of articles regarding the Lord's Church on January 15 under title ***"What is Written and Why"***. The fundamental groundwork of Scripture was mentioned in this first article to bind together the prophesy and identify from whence it came.

The primary purpose of the written word is to identify spiritual issues by the terms and parameters that God Himself has provided. In ***2 Peter 1:2-3*** the Bible reminds us that ***"God has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who has called us to glory and virtue."*** Furthermore, we are told in that same chapter, ***verse 20-21*** that... ***"the prophecy of the word"*** (the truth and factual information in the book) ***"came not by the will of man"*** but ***Holy men of God Spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*** Also consider ***2 Timothy 3:16*** that tells us ***"All scripture is given by the inspiration of God (both new and old) and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect (complete) throughly furnished unto all good works."***

Even though the inspired writers were the men who eventually would write God's Word, let there be no question that the Word came directly from God, regardless of the actual hands who wrote them. We need to also understand that they are the same words that Jesus would have used to demonstrate the commandments of His Father as well. Hence the meaning of ***John 12:48-50*** ***"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day (day of judgement). For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak, therefore, even as the Father hath said unto me, so I speak."*** This plan for the deliverance of the Word of God was fulfilled exactly as God originally intended in His plan. It is the Gospel...the way to salvation...the words we live by and the rule ultimately for measuring the members of the Lord's Church.

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! 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 .

YOUTH ACTIVITIES — A Youth Sleepover on May 5th in the Fellowship Building. The lock-in will start at 7 PM - all ages are invited, but if the children are younger than the third grade, please pick them up by 10 PM. Pickup in the morning will be 9 AM. Sign up sheets are in the back for children attending — also one for food items that we're needing. See Rachael Wallace if you'd rather give money.

MEETING WITH JACK EVANS has been scheduled for August 20-23 — "In Christ Alone". It will have a definite evangelistic aim, so be looking for more information, but be thinking about who to invite.

BIRTHDAY CAKE fellowship will be tonight after evening services. Come enjoy some food and fellowship while we celebrate all the birthdays of the congregation in April.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Rosa Z** flew to Mexico to be with her Dad, Miguel Alcantar. He is critically ill at this time and we need to pray for him and also Rosa as she deals with his illness. We know prayers work.
- **Linda Moore** asks for us to pray for a 9 year old boy in Gunter that was hit in the head by a

baseball in practice. His name is Porter and there is concern for one of his retinas. Also pray for his coach who threw the ball as he feels terrible.

- **Linda M** also asks for the father of her daughter-in-law for heart surgery recovery
- **From the Wallaces** the preacher in Madill OK is having problems with his voice

UPDATES

- **Zeke** was able to come to worship Sunday. He was able to go home after his stay in the hospital and also after staying with his son for awhile. Let's pray that he recovers quickly from the procedure done in the hospital and that he will not have any more issues like that.
- **Dianna C's** doctor is giving her a break from Chemo until May 3rd. She is grateful for this break.
- **Ralph L** is at home recuperating from his heart event, much better, but weak
- **Bonnie D** wants to thank everyone for the calls, cards, flowers and prayers. She is very weak and has a physical therapist working with her. It will be a slow recovery and be awhile before she is able to come to services.

PRAYER LISTS...

- Lori C had some minor skin cancer surgery on her hairline. Pray for a quick recovery
- Nancy J relative Tom Kissinger: Parkinson's
- Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer

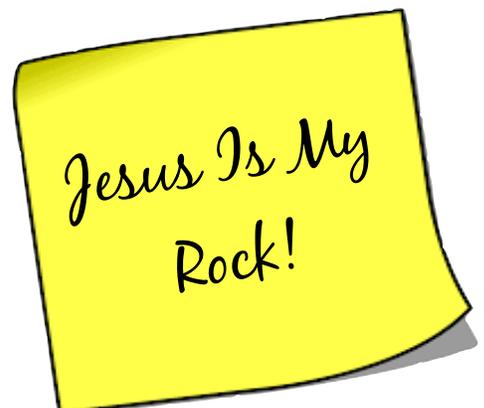
- Dianna Conkling
- Hugh R.'s sister Andrea
- Sue Carter
- Isela H.'s friend Jeff, cancer.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our congregational leaders

Long Term Requests

- Bonnie B.
- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- The Zapata's friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Apr 30, 2 Kgs 8-9
- May 1, 2 Kgs 10-12
- May 2, 2 Kgs 13-14
- May 3, 2 Kgs 15-16
- May 4, 2 Kgs 17-18
- May 5, 2 Kgs 19-21
- May 6, 2 Kgs 22-24
- May 7, 1 Chron 1



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 DANGER CONNECTED WITH FREEDOM

Israel had faced many dangers in Egypt. Slavery brought its own hazards of hard, dangerous labor plus the slave master's punishments for unsatisfactory production or rebellion (Ex. 2:11,12). When Moses came and told Pharaoh to let Israel go, Pharaoh increased the workload increasing the danger of punishment at the hands of unhappy masters (Ex. 5). When Pharaoh finally did let Israel go, he changed his mind and chased them with the full force of the Egyptian army (Ex. 14:ff), an army renowned for their chariot warfare and battle victories. There was probably a certain measure of fear even stepping into the divided Red Sea with a wall of water on the left and the right (Ex. 14:22)! No wonder they celebrated in song and dance (Ex. 15:1-21) after the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea (Ex. 14:28ff).

But Israel's greatest dangers still lay ahead of them, and, of all things, it was their newly received freedom that would be the undoing of everyone over the age of 20! Freedom, they thought, gave them license to grumble and complain (e.g., Ex. 15:22ff), to make up their own rules about worship (Ex. 32 and Lev. 10), to challenge Moses' leadership (e.g., Num. 12), to reject God's promise because it looked impossible (Num. 13, 14), to reject the priesthood of the tribe of Levi (Num. 16:41—17:13), and to act immorally with neighboring heathens (Num. 25). It was their abuse of freedom that came back to kill and condemn them again and again.

We can see this principle not just in the stories of Israel, however, it is relived with every new generation. As young people come out from under the rules and expectations of parents into adult majority, it is common for all boundaries to be pushed, all rules to be ignored, and all good sense to be thrown out the window. That's what's behind the foolish excesses of college frat houses, drinking parties, wild political positions, and freewheeling sexual promiscuity. Precious, longed-for freedom gets quickly turned into sin and license for anything goes.

But freedom doesn't need to be dangerous. While we often have the flawed idea that real freedom means all rules and boundaries are eliminated, real

liberty must naturally include moral, godly boundaries. This is part of what Jesus was getting at, when He said (John 8:31,32, 36), "... 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and **the truth will make you free...So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**'" Godly rules actually help create and enhance freedom.

This was also Paul's point, as he addressed the Corinthian church's divisions caused by un-Christian use of liberty (1 Cor. 8-11). Paul's command and plea was to use their Christian freedoms with godly discretion

Alexis de Tocqueville in his book *Democracy in America* wrote,

"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers,...in her fertile fields and boundless forests,... in her rich mines and her vast world commerce.... in her public school system and her institutions of learning...in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution, and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

Is this not the core reason for decline in our land today — the unbridled, ungodly, undiscerning exercise of "freedom" to do whatever we please? As the Scripture says (Psa. 33:12a), "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD..."

In other words, goodness is not to be found in mere freedom; unbridled freedom yields mere chaos, offense, crime, oppression (ironically enough), and condemnation. Rather, true goodness is found in freedom within God's boundaries.

God give us freedom, please; but help us to use it with godly discretion and not to our condemnation.

Park Linscomb

