

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

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

Deacons:

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

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

GOD'S PLAN, PART 4

Reading the Bible is like reading a great novel. In this case, the summary of the plot is provided in **Matthew 18:11**, "For the Son of man has come to save that which was lost." I have heard many refer to this as "coming to save the lost". Although this is true it is not necessarily the context of the statement. Considering the purpose of His coming, it was for redemption that the relationship between God and His creation of man could have a means by which it could be restored...this is what had more realistically been lost. The result was an elaborate plan, unlike any other. Alluded to by prophets and prophesied about throughout the Old Testament, the New Testament confirms 'The Plan' and provides a first-hand look at it's coming.

Looking backward, the Apostle Paul said in **Galatians 4:4**, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son..." gives a clear impression that nothing was accidental. The time had come for the execution of the plan. Jesus selected the 12 men who would be included, based upon certain traits each had that would be instrumental in fulfilling it. Judas had his part in the plan. Even though it seems odd to us, it was also part of 'The Plan'. Jesus taught them of things to come and prepared them in every way that he could with the time that he had. One of the more significant things he taught them was of the rejection of salvation exclusively through Christ, and suffering "for my names' sake" **Matthew 10:22**.

Matthew 7:13-14 describes the exclusivity of the plan as a "straight gate and narrow way.... and few there be that find it." Perhaps the more revealing responsibilities of the Apostles is in **Matthew 16:18-19** wherein Jesus tells the Apostles, "upon this rock (truth) I will build my church... and give unto thee (them) the keys to the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." By this we can know how the word of the Lord would be revealed to all future believers. The Word would be the product of Godly inspiration that is indicated in **2 Timothy 3:16-17**. It was neither a by-product nor by accident, it was the original intent of God to provide this written word that would forever be the golden standard of righteousness.

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 .

VALENTINES DAY PARTY — was a grand success. Thanks to Jessica S., Nancy J., and Dianne H. who took so much time to decorate and cook for this event. Also those who served, helped cleanup, and contributed in other ways!



LEADERSHIP MEETING — Our elders, deacons, and preacher will be meeting this Sunday (today) at 4PM to discuss the work of the church. If you have something you'd like discussed, please let us know.

NEW STREAMING TV CAMPAIGN — The Rock Hill congregation is launching a new streaming TV advertising campaign on Thurs. through Sat. on Roku, Pluto TV, FoxNews, DirecTV Stream, Sling TV, LG Channels, and History. Check it out and point it out to friends, etc.

AREA WIDE OFFERINGS

- Prestoncrest, Saturday, Feb. 24
Telling the Story: Conference on Evangelism and Church Growth
- Area wide worship, March 3,
Greenville Ave

AN EVANGELISM CLASS — Our next class will be at the Ruebushes home at 7PM on Feb. 29. Join us!

THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH — We have an ongoing monthly benevolence program to help the Berkshire County church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. See Trudy R. to contribute.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS...

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Nancy Jones' cousin, David Kemp, with a major stroke, in ICU on a ventilator.
- Lynn Turner broke his leg last week and needed surgery; will be in rehab for a couple of

weeks.

- Norma Bautista has an inflamed heel that very painful.
- Burley Stinnett Jr. — various health issues
- Rachel W's friend, Madeline, with Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Whitney Perez, cancer chemo
- Bev W., recovery, knee surgery.
- Zeke R. — PTSD, depression, and VA issues. Also, Zeke's sister-in-law Carmen R., eye sight
- Lynn Turner, cancer
- Dianna C. for cancer treatment
- Sue Carter: digestive problems
- Freida R. recovering
- Bonnie D. broken shoulder and, struggling; Suzanne as she cares for her mother
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Ora Holt, kidney

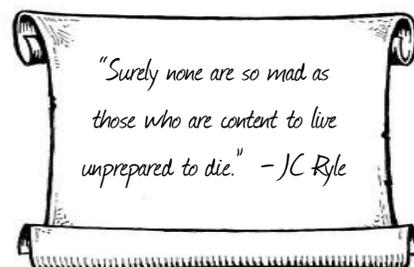
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our elders, deacons, preacher, teachers, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregational

LONG TERM REQUESTS

- Isela Hughes' sister Griselda's illness & friend Jeff with cancer
- 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
- Ken C.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Feb 18, Num 14-15
- Feb 19, Num 16-18
- Feb 20, Num 19-21
- Feb 21, Num 22-24
- Feb 22, Num 25-26
- Feb 23, Num 27-29
- Feb 24, Num 30-31
- Feb 25, Num 32-33



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.

OVERCOMING THE SHAME OF SIN

Peter exclaimed "I will never deny you, Lord! I would die first!" Jesus looked at him sorrowfully, knowing the truth, and told him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Then Jesus was arrested, Peter tried to defend Jesus with his sword but was rebuked, and then Peter followed (at a distance) the cohort that arrested Jesus to Caiaphas' house. It was there that he was "called out" three times as being a disciple of Jesus, but denied knowing Jesus all three times...and then the rooster crowed!

Peter's heart was pierced and broken all at the same time. The guilty conscience must have been overwhelming and he wept bitterly. After Jesus was crucified, laid in the tomb, and then raised from the dead, He then appeared to the apostles in the upper room on that first resurrection morning. Can you imagine how much the usually outgoing Peter might have wanted to just shrink back and hide in the shadows, in hopes of being unnoticed, even when Jesus was offering to let the apostles touch him to prove that He wasn't just a ghost or a figment of their imagination? Peter probably still touched and talked with Jesus, but doubtlessly there was a cloud of guilt hovering over Peter's heart, where once there was nothing but a close trusting friendship. But then there was breakfast with Jesus on the shore of Galilee (John 21:12-17), in which Jesus gave Peter the forgiveness and absolution that he doubtlessly ached for and which lifted tons of shame from Peter's soul.

Saul of Tarsus had been a fervent worshipper of the God of Abraham since childhood. And in his young manhood his zeal had brought him opportunities to show his dedication to God and his mentors by dealing sternly, even violently with blasphemers and heretics of the Jewish faith — especially those benighted disciples of the despised Jesus of Nazareth. But then, on a mission to Damascus to purge these Christian sinners from the earth, Saul discovered just how mistaken he had been. In a flash of light and revelation he learned that Jesus really was the Messiah, the Lord. He had been all wrong, he had actually been fighting against the God he loved and was killing and imprisoning His people! The fact that, even after years of faithful service to Jesus Christ, he still called himself the "chief of sinners" tells us that he still felt

the weight of remorse for his sin—even though he'd been assured of his forgiveness.

I had a friend who was a Christian, he's passed on now. He'd been a Christian for a long time and led an exemplary life in many ways down through the years. But not long ago he committed a serious sin. For a while, he hid his sin and tried to salve his conscience by telling himself that he could make things right soon. But the longer things went on, the more obvious it became that he was in too deep. Guilt overwhelmed him and in time even made him sick. Finally he confessed it and did his best to make things right. But it is obvious that the grief and remorse haunted him.

Guilt does that. Or more accurately, Satan does that to us. Holds out before us, in our private thoughts, our foolishness and sin, the things we never want to remember again. We may close our eyes tight in embarrassed agony, but we still hear and see it in surround sound and 8K clarity (or whatever the state of the art in video is these days). Even things that we've repented of, confessed, and tried to learn from still come visiting us from time to time. No wonder Satan's name means "accuser". The accusations can cripple us, depress us, sicken us, paralyze us; because "just look at what you did!" It's one of the devil's most effective weapons against God's people.

But praise and thanks be to God the Father for Jesus our Savior, who through His word reminds us of God's amazing grace and forgiveness.

Rom. 5:6-8 "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Rom. 8:1 "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

To every Christian who similarly is attacked this way, remember to put on the full armor of God, including the — helmet of salvation.

Park Linscomb

