

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"*

Bringing Forth the Fruits Thereof

God's plan for salvation can only be understood clearly 'after-the-fact'. Even though prophecy had declared that it was coming, the people of the 1st Century AD could have little idea of how it would come to pass. The scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day stood against Him and the plan that God had made. When Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time, things began to happen quickly. In **Matthew 22:43**, Jesus said to them, "*The kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.*" The religious leaders consisted of these same men who despised the teaching of Jesus and fought diligently to hold on to the old (Mosaic) Law, their traditions, and their authority.

In **Romans 1:16**, a very familiar verse states, "*For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*" The Jewish people considered themselves 'the chosen people of God' by their genealogy as descendants of Abraham. The promise to Abraham was primarily in Christ (**Galatians 3:16**). The promise was fulfilled in the accomplishment of Christ's birth, death and resurrection that established the plan of God for salvation. The Mosaic Law had served its purpose, to get us to Christ and was taken out of the way, "*Nailing it to the cross*" **Colossians 2:14**. However, there were those who served under the Old Law...by the Old Law...that were redeemed by the blood of Christ. It was then as it is now, the qualification of salvation was by obedience of faith. It is for this reason that the Apostle Paul pointed out that the Gospel was made available "*to the Jew first*" in **Romans 1:16**.

The heart of Jesus for the Jewish Nation was made evident in **Matthew 23:37-38**. The prophecies did not persuade them; the miracles did not convince them; they despised Him for the truth that He taught. His judgment was declared in the statement He made, "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wing, but you would not. Behold, your house is left unto you desolate!*" The fate of the Jewish people, just like the fate of all mankind, is in the hands of God. He will render justice upon all who lived before and upon all who live hereafter under the New Testament instruction. It is our time, our opportunity to examine the plan for salvation and live by the Instruction in righteousness that has been given to us. It is the words of Jesus that will judge us in the last day.

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 .

WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD SINGING at the Bethesda Gardens Assisted Care facility this past Sunday. There will be group of us who'll be going to the Bethesda Gardens in Frisco to sing to the residents on March. 19 at 3:30PM. Join us!

KIDS IN ACTION — Our kids collected Items for the children's hospital in Frisco, and assembled them yesterday for delivery. Thanks to everyone who donated, who assembled and who delivered these gifts for sick children.

CLEVE AND MELINDA STAFFORD will be with us here at Rock Hill on March 12. A potluck lunch will follow immediately after worship services. Make plans to join us!

PIE CRUST CLASS...Trudi will be bringing a lesson to all of us who want a pie crust as great as hers always are. Bring apron, pastry blender, and rolling pin if you have them.

A SPRING SINGING WORKSHOP April 16-19, Ken Dawdy will be here for a singing workshop. Ken will teach on worship in song on Sunday and then will hold workshops each evening Monday through Wednesday.

FOR THE CHURCH IN PITTSFIELD MA — Trudi R. has started an ongoing monthly benevolence program for the Pittsfield church. If you would like to contribute, please see Trudi.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- A March youth event for the younger children with the date TBA.
- A Youth Sleepover on May 5th in the Fellowship Building. All ages are invited.

LADIES' SPRING FLING — Saturday April 22nd at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

LINDA MOORE is reported to have a clean bill of health after a bout with pneumonia

NEWS ON CHUCK T. — Chuck started dialysis last week, but experienced dizziness with it, so they kept him a few days. He should be back at Bethesda Gardens now. Chuck's vitals are good.

PRAYER LISTS...

- Nancy Jones has been diagnosed with COVID and so she and Doug are under quarantine for a few days. Pray that Nancy gets well quickly and Doug stays healthy.

- John B. had vein surgery on his left leg recently, but there's been a delay due to the condition of the vein
 - Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
 - Dianna Conkling
 - Hugh R.'s sister Andrea
 - Sue Carter
 - Chuck T. cancer treatments
 - 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

- Feb 26, Num 34-36
- Feb 27, Deut 1-3
- Feb 28, Deut 4-7
- Mar 1, Deut 8-10
- Mar 2, Deut 11-13
- Mar 3, Deut 14-17
- Mar 4, Deut 18-20
- Mar 5, Deut 21-23

The mental cases most difficult to cure are the persons who are crazy about themselves.

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.

Another Side of Kindness

Kindness is important as a part of the Christian uniform of love (Col. 3:12-14) and a part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23). Like the Christian love from which it springs, it must have others' best interest at heart. And as disciples of Jesus, we must do more than just believe that it is important, we must practice it regularly.

Having said this, however, I must also point out that Christian kindness isn't always bunnies and flowers—the typical perception of the world. What I mean is this: true kindness also has a hard edge. As Christians we are sometimes fearful that sharing God's own words will hurt someone's feelings, will be unkind; so, we don't say anything. I have personally seen Christians being too easily "shut down" by an accusation from a lost person that what they were saying was not very kind or Christian. Their easily bruised feelings were held up like a shield to "save them" from the hard spiritual realities of their lostness, their error, their perversion, and their eternal destination if they don't repent.

Now, I'm not saying or even implying that some of these harsh realities aren't shocking, terrifying, and even offensive (Matt. 11:6; Gal. 5:11; and 1 Pet 2:8). Nobody likes to hear that they are wrong or that they could be condemned to Hell. But is it really kindness to allow someone to continue doing something, unwarned, that will end in their eternal condemnation? At what point does "kindness" turn into neglect and the self-interested fear of displeasing people? I would respectfully submit to you that the greater kindness, the Christian's courageous kindness, is to humbly and sincerely "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15).

The same kindly intended Gospel lessons that Paul taught in synagogues from Damascus to Corinth brought some to Christ while offending others in every town he visited—"The same fire that hardened the steel melted the wax." In the Galatian letter, as Paul strongly warned them about the dangers of false teaching, he also said, (Gal. 4:16) "So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" It is likely that

he made some enemies with straightforward teaching, but he also rescued others from the spiritual error that would have condemned them (Gal. 5:4).

Parents are familiar with this principle. If we were to find a child walking around with a gun, or a container of drain cleaner, or wandering into a street (busy or not). We would probably take away the dangerous thing or take them up out of the street. But what if the child began kicking, screaming, and crying, as they are wont to do—their tender feelings hurt because they can't have what they want? Kindness would still demand that we keep the dangerous things away and keep them out of the street, right?

So it is, when folks are lost, standing in danger of losing their souls. Now we can't exactly take sins out of the hands of the lost, but the principle remains the same. Christian kindness demands that we warn them: that we call the sin a sin, that we tell them just what the Lord Himself has stated is the consequence of their behavior. Sure, we might inadvertently hurt their feelings, but we might also save their lives — these things aren't mutually exclusive.

When Peter preached on Pentecost and said, (Acts 2:36) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified," he hurt their feelings. Acts 2:37 says, "...they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'" It was the piercing of the heart that moved them to obedience. Sometimes the only Christian thing to do is risk hurting someone's feelings.

Please do not misunderstand. It would never be Christian to deliberately and gratuitously hurt someone's feelings. This is not what Peter, Paul, and other early Christians intended to do. Such a thing would be the exact opposite of Christian kindness. But Christian kindness will sometimes require the courageous taking of a risk of speaking the truth in love.

So, always be kind, but also be courageous.

Park Linscomb

