

# THE ROCK HILL HERALD

*Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ*



## Hearing the Message

Let us look more closely at the Bible as a reference book for God's moral standard. It should be noted that the word of truth is purposely distributed throughout the books of the New Testament in such a way as to draw the reader further and further into the text. This is done to differentiate the casual reader from the person who desires to "*diligently seek God*", as described in **Hebrews 11:6**. During his time of teaching, Jesus repeatedly pointed out that not everyone would readily see the value of righteousness, nor recognize the message that it brings. He said in **Matthew 11:15** "*He that hath ears, let him hear.*" We can be assured that the people to whom Jesus spoke were CAPABLE of hearing what was said, but not necessarily able to comprehend the message that was taught.

The average person has probably been made aware of the verses that are frequently quoted such as **John 3:16**, or **Ephesians 2:8**. For those who do not recall these verses, you may wish to take some time to look them up. Although these words are certainly true, they cannot reveal the entirety of what God intended when he set out to give us the Inspired word. I am afraid we have become a culture that enjoys short cuts! This is especially true of God's Word if we accept "SELECTED" verses without gaining the complete perspective from the remainder of the Book. (not SOME of the Word, but the SUM of it)

Remember, according to **2 Timothy 3:16**, "*All scripture is given by Inspiration of God, and is profitable for instruction in righteousness*" It does not mean "scripture in partiality" but truly means if we want the truth, we must follow the instruction of God if we hope to be pleasing in the sight of God. Christianity is a way of life. It is the pattern created of God to show us the spiritual way that is designed by Him FOR US!

The Bible says, **1 Peter 2:2** "*As newborn babes, Desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby.*" This is an active desire to learn what the will of the Lord is for our lives. **2 Timothy 2:15**, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" We must know what is expected of us and develop understanding regarding God's Word. This morning, I trust you see the great value of God's Word, and the Need to adopt it for spiritual guidance.

Doug Jones

## 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
- Fernando Zapata

### Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

# 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 a visitor to our church, 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 .

**IN JANUARY** we'll return to having a prayer time at 5PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, which will include special time to talk about who needs prayer and visits.

**ON THE FOYER TABLE** There's a new report from the church in Pittsfield MA in the foyer. Pick it up and get encouraged.

**A CARD FOR PITTSFIELD** — Trudy Ruebush is organizing a card with a voluntary contribution towards the work in Pittsfield MA. See her if you'd like to sign the card or give.

**LADIES' PLANNING MEETING** — for planning events for 2023 (Lord willing) will be Jan. 9, Monday, at 6:30 in the fellowship hall. All the ladies are invited!

**A MEN'S BREAKFAST** is planned for Saturday, January 21, at 9am at the fellowship hall

**OUR NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM**  
We are collecting food and household items to contribute to various food banks in the area. There is a list of suggested items and collection tubs in the back of the church building by the water fountains. If you would rather contribute money, a money jar is on the table for your convenience. Please keep this outreach effort in your prayers.



**GIVING OPTIONS** — please be aware that there are now several ways to contribute. The collection plate will continue to be passed, but we also have online options at our website, [rhcoc.org](http://rhcoc.org).

### PRAYER LISTS...

#### Prayers needed

- Melinda Stafford, our Berkshire County missionary's wife, had her gall bladder out on Tuesday. Pray for a quick recovery.
- Julia asks for prayers for her friend Wendy Harvey. Wendy has been diagnosed with breast cancer for the third time after just finishing chemotherapy. She has gone to the MD Anderson Cancer Hospital in Houston for further treatment. Wendy is the young mother of 3 young daughters.
- Ralph and Sandy Linebaugh are asking for prayers for the family of Ralph Harloff, their next door neighbor, who who died Friday
- Emma R. as a new Christian
- For Brooke and Logan Campbell, strength to continue caring for their mother
- Dianna Conkling's undergoing chemo (to finish in March) so, prayers are still urged.
- Hugh R.'s sister Andrea, who was re-hospitalized for pain in her chemo treatment.

- Sue Carter: please pray for more health improvement
- Chuck T. cancer treatments

#### Remember these often:

- Isela H.'s friend Jeff with stage 4 brain 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 teenage friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon
- Cheryl F.
- Ann S.

#### READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Jan 1 .....Gen 1-3
- Jan 2 .....Gen 4-7
- Jan 3 .....Gen 8-11
- Jan 4 .....Gen 12-15
- Jan 5 .....Gen 16-18
- Jan 6 .....Gen 19-20
- Jan 7 .....Gen 21-23
- Jan 8 .....Gen 24-25

*Do you spend your time with God's book or Facebook?*

# 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.

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## Discipline Yourself for the Purpose of Godliness

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"...On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

*1Tim. 4:7,8*

**O**K, so here we are at the start of a new year, and perhaps certain new year's resolutions have been rolling through your mind: eating better, exercising more, less TV, more books, less time on Facebook (or your favorite social media), etc. If you're like me, there's a theme among my list of resolutions: discipline. Discipline is often the key to making improvements in our lives; because our weakness as humans is not knowing where the proper line is between "enough" and "too much" — or even allowing it at all — until we look back at the undesirable results ("Oh, these pants are much tighter that they used to be!"). However, as desirable as physical discipline might be for us, Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:7,8 that the discipline of godliness is more profitable still. But what are some these godly disciplines?

Let's talk about discipline itself first. Discipline is the ability that we all have to control ourselves, our bodies, our words, our emotions, our minds, our habits, and our deeds. There have been times in history in which discipline was considered a high virtue, but the world today has the tendency to practice very little in the way of self-control either in the facet of discipline that holds us back or in the facet that impels us to do things that we don't want to do. In the physical world, it would include getting up earlier than usual to exercise or perhaps passing up the extra slice of pie. In the spiritual realm it likewise pushes us find time to do the truly important, or perhaps giving a firm NO to an especially alluring sin.

So, what is godliness in the Scripture? Essentially, it boils down to the what we might call the practices of religion. What are some specific examples?

The active side of discipline might prod us to deliberately make the time to engage in...

- **Scripture reading** — Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). Want to grow in faith and wisdom? Be a daily Bible reader and meditator.
- **Prayer** — There's an old hymn whose refrain goes, "Little is much when God is in it", and one powerful

way to get God in it is through prayer. Nothing is impossible with God.

- **Church attendance** — The importance of this much misunderstood and even maligned discipline to spiritual strength can scarcely be overstated. It is not that just the strong Christians attend all services; it is more like attending all services make Christians strong.
- **Service to others** — In a world in which we are almost encouraged to be self-centered, the discipline of regular, deliberate service to others is critical. And when it is done anonymously (curbing our pride), it is even more effective in strengthening the soul.
- **Love** — Habitually operating in the best interest of the other, even when the other is unlovely doesn't come naturally to humans, and must be practiced intentionally — reining in selfishness and revenge, and choosing to do what's right.
- **Forgiveness** — Like love, forgiveness is something that we can deliberately choose and make a habit, although it often runs counter to our desires.
- **Giving** — Practice being a good steward of the LORD's money, not only every Sunday, but anytime a worthy need arises.

On the restraint side of discipline, we'll be held back from engaging in sin, of course; but it also might call us to...

- **control our freedoms** on some issue of Christian liberty or matter of opinion (Romans 15).
- **learn to wait** for the Lord (Isaiah 40:31), a difficult thing to do, when we really want answers to our prayers now.
- **learn endurance** (Hebrews 10:36), the ability to take a "hit" but stands up again to do what's right anyway.

Practice these disciplines of godliness and watch how (as Paul put it) you are profited for the present life and the life to come.

*Park Linscomb*

