

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 1

God has a unique way of teaching us the things He would have us to learn. Some lessons are taught by commandment, some by parables and some by example. The challenge is to determine what portion of extensive writing applies to this generation and the next. There are a few things that remain constant for all who believe in a 'Creator' in the person of Almighty God, a 'Savior' named Jesus, and the Holy Spirit 'making intercession for us according to the will of God.' It is not difficult to identify religious organizations with whom we share the existence of "Father-Son-Holy Spirit". However, the similarities end shortly thereafter.

In order to further the comprehension of Scripture, it must be clearly understood that God had a distinct purpose and plan from the very beginning. There is a hint of this in [Genesis 3:15](#), but cannot be understood from this writing alone. I would recommend thinking ahead to [Hebrews 1:1](#) where the writer tells us, "God...spake in times past unto the fathers (forefathers) by the prophets". By this we know that God had this inspired and written to validate what eventually would happen. For example, [Isaiah 53:1-12](#) is the verse read from the Old Testament by the Ethiopian Eunuch (concerning Christ as Savior) in [Acts 8:26-38](#). Although Christ was crucified in the 1st Century AD, none of the Inspired writings we know as the New Testament had yet been inspired and recorded into a single resource for "instruction in righteousness". This was also part of God's plan from the beginning.

The last piece for today is the connection God made between [Hebrews 1:1](#) and then on toward [Hebrews 1:2](#):

God...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son..."

What we have here is the completion of God's plan of redemption through His Son. Look back to [Matthew 16:18-19](#) wherein Jesus announces *the coming of His "Church and the Kingdom"*. With the death, burial and resurrection came the completion of Christ's part in God's plan. Neither the inspired word nor the Holy Spirit had been given. Lord willing, we will complete the connections next Lord's 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! 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 .



OUR LEADERSHIP MEETING is this afternoon, Jan 14. All our elders, deacons, and our preacher will meet at 4PM in the fellowship hall.

A NEW BIBLE CLASS is a topical study featuring your questions or those of friends. Submit a question and

come study with us on Wednesday evenings.

NEW DIRECTORY PICTURES will be taken over the next few weeks.

Nancy Jones will be our photographer.

AN EVANGELISM CLASS — there's a sign up sheet in the back of the auditorium. We'll be meeting at the Ruebush's home starting Thursday, Jan 18 at 7PM. Learn how to share the greatest news ever told!

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

- A friend of Rachel Wallace, Madeline was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome which has effected her ability to walk. She may need a year of physical therapy.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Whitney Perez who grew up in Frisco and was a faithful member of the church has been diagnosed with Stage 4 Colon Cancer.
- Bev Weldon is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- Chris Lyons (the Zapata's son-in-law) was in a serious car accident last week. Please pray for him, his young family, and the Zapatas.



- Zeke Rodriguez for his PTSD, depression, and issues with the VA.
- Zeke's sister in law Carmen Rodriguez, macular degeneration.
- John Smetzer asks for prayers for Rose Smetzer, pneumonia.
- Alene Turner asks prayers for husband Lynn (cancer).
- Dianna C. for cancer treatment changes
- Sue Carter: digestive problems
- Freida R. at home

- Bonnie D. broken shoulder and, struggling; Suzanne as she cares for her mother
- Fernando Z's father, Ramon
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our congregational leaders

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

- Jan 14, Gen 39-41
- Jan 15, Gen 42-44
- Jan 16, Gen 45-47
- Jan 17, Gen 48-50
- Jan 18, Exo 1-3
- Jan 19, Exo 4-6
- Jan 20, Exo 7-9
- Jan 21, Exo 10-12

**Growing more
in '24**

**How will you grow in
Christ this year?**

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.

WHY CAN'T I KEEP A RESOLUTION?

We often make resolutions at the beginning of most every year: lose weight, break a bad or sinful habit, begin a new healthy habit, read the Bible through in a year, begin home devotionals, etc. But statistics also show that a lot of us have already abandoned them only a week or so later. And many of us are often left shaking our heads in defeat, wondering why we can't seem to keep a resolution.

There are a few common stumbling blocks that keep us from keeping our resolutions, and also some biblical solutions.

First, we often just quit trying after a failure. Habits are hard sometimes hard to remember and oftentimes to break, and we must expect that there will be some failures. Babies don't start running after they've taken their first step, you fell off your bicycle a few times before getting the hang of it, and you made a mess of a knot learning to tie your shoe the first several times, right? Mastering any skill or resolution will entail a number of failures before the eventual successes and mastery. This is a reality of spiritual growth, because the "spirit is willing but the flesh is weak". So after failures Christians pick themselves up, ask God's forgiveness, and try again. Persevere, don't quit.

Another reason for not keeping resolutions is that we sometimes allow weak excuses to disarm us. There may be times when we must forego keeping our resolutions like medical emergencies, etc.; but sometimes good resolutions go down in flames over a relatively weak excuse ("My nephew's daughter's first grade dance recital is Sunday evening"). Successful resolution keepers fortify themselves with self-control and prayer against weak excuses.

Yet another reason for resolution failure is not having a plan for success. Change is seldom easy and almost always a bit painful, so we must have a plan. Ephesians 4 provides us with one plan that can apply to a wide range of resolution keeping: *take off* the old man of sin and *put on* the new man. Another

is "make no provision for the flesh" (Rom. 13:14); for example throw away all the "emergency" cigarettes and Twinkies. Avoid the places and people who tempt you to fail (Prov. 4:14,15). As it is said in our modern world, "To fail to plan is to plan to fail."

Sometimes our resolutions fail because we do not have any encouragement to keep them. Humans are social beings and always respond well to encouragement from others. Think about how many wrong things you've done at the encouragement of others; and it works the other way, too, to do right, to improve, to change. Sometimes this is called getting an accountability partner, but just finding a friend who'll encourage you when you get discouraged and cheer you on as you succeed can make all the difference. That's one of the main points of church attendance, right? Find encouragers who will keep you lifted up, and on course to keep your resolution.

Finally, at least for this article, learn from your mistakes; too often we don't. I've occasionally done pre-marital counseling for people who've been divorced; when I do, one of the questions I make sure to ask them is what they learned from their first marriage. You might be surprised to hear that most hadn't really even thought about it. I guess they were just hoping to get luckier in love this time. Perhaps in our resolutions we just hope to be luckier in keeping them this time, too. No one likes to make mistakes, have failures, or mess up; but each mistake can be a learning experience, if we'll reflect on them. Negative stories in the Bible are there, so that we can learn from their mistakes. If you just stumbled in keeping your resolution, think about it and find out why. Learn from your mistakes.

Transformation into the image of Christ (2 Cor. 3:18) is much of what the Christian life is about. As you seek to grow personally, remember to 1) persevere, 2) fortify yourself with self-control and prayer against weak excuses, 3) get a plan to succeed, 4) find encouragers, and 5) learn from your mistakes.

Park Linscomb

