

# THE ROCK HILL HERALD

*Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ*

## What Is Written and Why

We wish to look deeper into what the Bible calls 'THE CHURCH' and clarify some details regarding what it was intended to be in the eyes of God. The average person in our society today has rather loose ideas of what the church is, where it came from, and their individual association with it. In today's article, we will reveal more specific details according to Bible History and make every effort to identify God's original design of this body that Jesus called "My church" in **Matthew 16:18**. Remarks regarding the church cannot be properly discussed in a single article, so this will likely extend over a few weeks.

We must first agree that the Bible is the Word of God, and its purpose 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, **verses 20-21** that "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture [the truth and factual information in the book] is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time 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] thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

As early as in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament, God gave specific instruction to write down His words for future reference. Look at **Exodus 17:14** where God told Moses, "write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua" In **Deuteronomy 27:8** God instructed, "You shall write on the stones, all the words of this law very plainly." Also in **Isaiah 30:8** "write it before them in a tablet, and write it in a book that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever." One of those "holy men" was the prophet Isaiah, who prophesied of the Church in **Isaiah 2:2-3** "the Lord's house will be established; all nations shall flow unto it; out of Zion will go forth the Law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." The Church that God intended must meet all this criteria in order to be accurate by prophecy.

More to follow

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 .

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

**WE’RE RETURNING** 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. Join us next week!

**A VALENTINE PARTY** for all adults is scheduled for Feb 11. There’ll be a sign up sheet in the back. If you have any questions, please see Nancy J. or Dianne H.

**A CHANCE TO REACH OUT** — There will be group of us who’ll be going to the Bethesda Gardens in Frisco to sing to the residents on Feb. 19 at 3:30PM. Join us!

**WELCOME...** Beverly Weldon and Joan Votaw wanted to officially place membership. They’ve been worshipping with us for a while now, Also Laura Campbell, who has visited with us for a while wants to be associated with the congregation here. Welcome!

**THE “LADIES’ BIBLE CLASS”** is meeting Tuesdays, in the fellowship hall at 10AM. This is a great time of study, fellowship, and lunch!

### OUR NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM

We continue to collect food and household items to contribute to various food banks in the area. See the suggested items and collection tubs in the back of the church building by the water fountains. 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.

### PRAYER LISTS...

#### Prayers needed

- Melinda Stafford, our Berkshire County missionary’s wife, has had some gall bladder surgical set backs. Pray for a quick recovery.
- Terry Hill asks us to pray for Dale Stone, an elder at the Southside Church of Christ in Lubbock, who was involved in a terrible accident recently
- Julia asks for prayers for her friend Wendy Harvey, diagnosed with breast cancer for the third time. She is the young mother of 3 young daughters.
- 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 is now home but still undergoing her chemo treatment.
- Sue Carter: please pray for more health improvement
- Chuck T. cancer treatments

#### Remember these often:

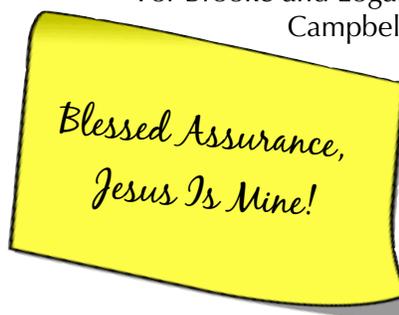
- Isela H.’s friend Jeff with stage 4 brain cancer.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- brethren in India
- the churches in New England
- our congregational leaders

#### 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 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
- Jan 22,.....Exo 13-15



# 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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## Get Into the Battle!

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**W**e are at war! I hope that statement didn't give you a "start", wondering how you missed that big headline this morning, because, no, we aren't in a physical war (at the moment, anyway), but if you're a Christian, we are literally in a war, a spiritual one. And everyone of us is actually on the battle line. On the one side is Satan and the world, and on the other is God and His people. You can't easily see the casualties, but they are there — those dead in their trespasses and sin, those who are wounded deeply in their guilt and regret, and the lives and homes blown up by Satan's collection of "weapons" — lies, lust, pride, materialism, and more.

So if we are in a war, how do we fight? Well, there are several things that the New Testament suggests. For example, it isn't just a cute rhetorical device that Paul is using in Ephesians 6, when he tells us to "suit up" with the armor of God. Similarly, there is a real winning strategy in the command to "stand firm" (1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:11; Phil. 4:1; and others). And certainly, we can know that as we stay on the Lord's side, we are overwhelming conquerors. But what I wanted to focus on for the moment is what Paul is talking about, when he wrote by inspiration, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

The context of this passage is dealing with Paul's strategy for dealing with a list of troubles in the Corinthian church, but the principle still applies to conducting spiritual warfare on the frontlines of the workplace, neighborhood, grocery store, family gathering, school, and every other location. In essence, Paul's point is that we are in a war of ideas and one important way to wage this war is to destroy "speculation and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God" and to take "every thought captive to the obedience of Christ". And boy, oh boy, these days, it's a target rich environment. Consider...

- Evolution / Darwinism
- Materialism
- "It doesn't matter what church you go to or what god you worship"

- Neo-paganism ("I am my own god/goddess")
- "Consenting adults should be able to do whatever they want to do sexually"
- "What's wrong with denominationalism?"
- "The Bible isn't accurate or inspired by God"
- "Who needs baptism? I believe, and that's enough"
- A cappella music is just a tradition, isn't it?"
- You must be anti-science, if you are a Christian"
- "How could there be a God with so much suffering in the world?"
- "How could a God of love punish someone forever?"
- "Man is just an advanced animal"
- Are Christians homophobic?
- What does the Bible say about abortion?
- "How can God be One and Three?"
- "Do Christianity and Islam worship the same God?"
- "What about gender roles and the Bible?"
- "What is marriage?"
- What proof is there of God?
- Are Christians racist?

We may sometimes find ourselves without an answer to some or even all these worldly salvos — the world is firing howitzers at us and we're just standing there. Indeed, the world has found it easier to "cancel" Christians these days, because we haven't given any thought to how we ought to respond.

But there are really good answers to these questions, and the Lord calls upon us to "...sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (1Pet. 3:15) — in other words, **get into the battle!**

Granted, this takes more Bible study than we might be used to, some serious thought, occasionally some research (try [apologeticspress.org](http://apologeticspress.org)), or asking more knowledgeable brethren for how they explain or answer some of these questions — but **get into the battle!** Not only will you help to push back the darkness in the souls of friends, family, and others; but you'll find yourself spiritually stronger, more convicted in your heart about the faith, and more confident in letting your light shine.

*Park Linscomb*

