

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ

The Intent of the Lord's Church

It is important to note in the 1st 2 articles, the importance of God's intention regarding the Church. It was prophesied in early times by Holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; the Word of the Lord was to be written by these Holy men for an everlasting record; it was futuristic in that it had not existed prior to the New Testament record.

God Himself controlled the eventual beginning of the Church "in these last days," **Hebrews 1:2**, "by His Son". The Apostle Paul indicated in **Ephesians 1:9** that God had "made known unto us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself." Paul furthers this explanation in **Ephesians 3:1-11** when he said (in part)

"by revelation he made known unto me the mystery... which in other ages had not been made known...now revealed unto his Holy Apostles...to make all men see the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning had been HID IN GOD...to the intent that now unto principalities and powers in heavenly places might be made KNOWN BY THE CHURCH...the manifold wisdom of God...according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When Jesus Spoke to Peter in **Matthew 16:18-19**, He revealed His mission to set in place that which God had intended. It was neither a failure to establish an earthly kingdom as some claim, nor was it some sort of 'substitution' of a kingdom. It was the fulfillment of what God had previously identified as his "eternal purpose through Christ Jesus our Lord." Please note that there are two separate entities mentioned: Jesus said to Peter, "upon this rock (of truth) I will build my CHURCH...and I will give unto thee the keys of the KINGDOM." It is most important that we recognize that the Church and the kingdom are both mentioned, and both are important to God's eternal purpose. Neither was in existence at the time, and both can be identified as having been established in scripture.

At the time of his confession, neither Peter nor any other Apostle had complete understanding of to what Jesus referred nor how it might occur. Jesus was preparing them for things to come as Paul wrote in **Galatians 4:4-7**, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His son...to redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of Sons... heirs of God through Christ."

As late as Christ's resurrection, the mystery had not been completed nor the role of the Apostles revealed..... more to follow.



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"*

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 .

DAVID TARBET will be speaking to the Rock Hill church this morning on the progress of his mission work with the church of the Northeast, especially New Milford CT; pulpit and **BC KIDS IN ACTION** — Our kids are collecting items for the children's hospital in Frisco. The kids will be gathering at the fellowship hall on Feb. 25 at 10AM to assemble the baskets, donuts will be served. There will be a list of donation ideas in the back and also in the bulletin.

FOR THE CHURCH IN PITTSFIELD MA — Trudi R. has started an ongoing monthly benevolence program. She will be collecting money to help the Berkshire County church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. If you would like to contribute to this, please see Trudi.

AND SPEAKING OF PITTSFIELD, Cleve and Melinda Stafford will be with us here at Rock Hill on March 12. If you've not had the

*The Lord gives wisdom.
(Prov. 2:6)*

each evening Monday through Wednesday.

A VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY for all adults is scheduled for Feb 11! There is a sign up sheet in the back. Questions? See Nancy J. or Dianne H.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- A March youth event for the younger children with the date TBA.
- There will be 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. Look for an invitation in the mail as we get closer to the date.

SINGING MINISTRY — We will be singing for the residents at Bethesda Gardens on the third Sunday each month starting February 19th. JOIN US! The address is 10588 Legacy Dr., Frisco, Tx 75034.

CARE GROUP UPDATE — Our Care Groups have been updated and we now have 4 groups; lists are on the table in the foyer. Each of our Care Groups will take turns being in charge of furnishing the light meal and cake for our monthly birthday cake nights. During that time we'll meet in our groups. There is a calendar on the back bulletin board showing which month each Care Group will be in charge.

PRAYER LISTS...

- Cole Lemons, killed in a serious car/truck accident,, friend of Kim B., pray for the family.

- Julia's friend Wendy Harvey. Wendy with breast cancer
- Dianna Conkling
- Hugh R.'s sister Andrea
- Sue Carter
- Chuck T. cancer treatments
- 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 29, Exo 33-35
- Jan 30, Exo 36-38
- Jan 31, Exo 39-40
- Feb 1, Lev 1-4
- Feb 2, Lev 5-7
- Feb 3, Lev 8-9
- Feb 4, Lev 10-12

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.

Learning to Embrace Discipline

Prov. 3:11, 12 — "My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD or loathe His reproof, for whom the LORD loves He reproves, even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights."

We've all said it before — something like it — as we were being disciplined by a parent: "You don't love me anymore!" How this pierces a loving parent's heart, because he/she knows better; godly, appropriate discipline is practiced as an act of love — as unappreciated as it might be — to keep the child from harm (that comes in so many different forms: health, psychological, social, physical, and spiritual) either now or in the future.

Happily, once we have grown up and matured a bit, we usually come to greatly appreciate the efforts made by our long-suffering parents, despite how unpleasant it might have been at the time — for both of us. I can remember thanking my father for all the discipline (usually spankings) after I had been married a few years — I thought he was going to faint. I had learned to embrace his godly and trustworthy discipline; and honestly, there still are plenty of times when I wish I could go to my dad for his encouragement, rebuke, or correction.

And how much more should we be willing to accept the Lord's discipline; yet how often do we have hardship, trouble, financial insecurity, loneliness, and much more thrust upon us; and look upward and at least think, "Do you not love me anymore?" We haven't learned to embrace God's discipline.

"Well, how do I do that?" you may well ask. There are two things that occur to me — there may be more — to help us embrace the discipline.

One of the things that made me appreciate what my parents had done was understanding (later) why they had done it — to keep me from

playing in the street and getting run over, to teach me not to be selfish but care for others, to teach me the value of learning, of hard work, of right priorities, of thrift, of kindness, of generosity, of loyalty, of family, and so much more. And maybe the reasons that we often fail to embrace the discipline is because we've not asked the question, "What am I supposed to learn?" The point of discipline is to teach, but as any teacher can tell you learning is a two-way street — the student must be willing to learn. Too often we're the student who is simply trying to find a way to not suffer the consequences of our sinful actions. You'll more easily embrace the discipline, when you stop and learn the lesson.

Another of the things that made me appreciate the discipline of my parents is was realizing that they really did love me, were sacrificing things for me, and providing for me — the discipline was simply one more proof, yes proof, of their love. We so often praise and glorify God in our prayers and songs for His marvelous, gracious, constant love evident in His creation, in sending Jesus, in providing for our needs, for the joy and hope we have, for the unbelievable status as heirs of Heaven, and abundantly more. But how often do we recognize and thank Him for the proof of His love found in discipline? Would God just about "faint"?

The writer of Hebrews tells us (Heb. 12:11), "All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness." Let's learn to embrace the good, trustworthy, and loving discipline of the Lord.

Park Linscomb

