

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"*

A STATEMENT OF GREAT CONTRAST

Much of what we write about has to do with the level of obedience that is required to be considered 'faithful' before God. Several verses come to mind that would help us with this endeavor, not the least of which is 2 Timothy 2:15 that instructs us to "study" for the sake of accuracy, and self evaluation: 2 Peter 1:10 helps make our choice to serve more certain: 2 Peter 3:18 encourages us to grow in both "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior." We should learn that God does not consider us a "true worshipper" John 4:23, if we are casual regarding our spirituality which includes church worship Hebrews 10:23-26: Furthermore, we cannot be pleasing before God if we do not hold the same moral standard as He does, 2 Peter 1:4-8.

For those who wish to minimize the requirement of what God has given to us in His holy and divine word, I would like for you to consider two verses that come straight from the New Testament and the Inspired Word that God. The first has to do with access to the body of Christ, which is located in Matthew 7:13-14. The second come to us from the same discourse of Jesus before his audience in verses 21-23.

Take note of verse 13 and 14, where the Bible records Jesus as having taught that we should, "enter in at the straight gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." It is important that we place the proper emphasis on the meaning of this verse. You see, the strait gate and narrow way does not necessarily describe a path that is difficult. What it does mean, however, is that the strait gate and the narrow way are very specific. This is confirmed in Acts 4:12 that says "there is none other name given among men whereby we must be saved." John 14:6 confirms also by the words of Jesus Himself and says, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me." The contrast of Matthew 7:13-14 is made between the broad way and the narrow way; Notice, "broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." This, as opposed to the narrow way, "which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." A statement with great contrast.

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 .



HOUSE TO HOUSE, HEART TO HEART is an evangelistic publication which we are having mailed to several neighborhoods around us. We'll be publicizing our meeting with Jack Evans in it.

Fear ends where faith begins.

MEETING WITH JACK EVANS has been scheduled for August 20-23 — *"In Christ Alone — What Makes Jesus Different?"* Its aim is Gospel outreach, so be thinking about who to invite.

AND there are now doorhangers to put on a few of the doors in your neighborhood. Grab a few dozen, get some exercise, and evangelize!



THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH The benevolent fund, normally collected by Trudi, will be collected Linda S., while the Ruebushes are out of town.

THE REGULAR LADIES' CLASS has gone into summer season mode, but they are meeting this Tuesday, July 18. Touch base with Linda Stinnett for details and topics to be discussed.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Sandy L's sister, Lisa, will be getting hospice care in Mississippi .
- Folks traveling on vacation or to camp
- Cleve Stafford's grand-daughter Peyton, struggling
- Isela Hughes asks for prayers for her sister Griselda Walters.
- Sarai Lyons asks for prayers for Tiffany Myers.
- Dianna C's recuperation from chemo
- Bonnie D. broken shoulder
- Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
- Sue Carter
- Isela H.'s friend Jeff, cancer.
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- 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.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Jul 16, Pro 29-31
- Jul 17, Eccl 1-6
- Jul 18, Eccl 7-12
- Jul 19, S. of Sol 1-8
- Jul 20, Isa 1-4
- Jul 21, Isa 5-8
- Jul 22, Isa 9-12
- Jul 23, Isa 13-16

WHO CALLED FIRST?

A call came on Sunday morning, "Tell mother not to go to church this morning. We are coming." But mother went right to church anyway.

The daughter came and was furious, when she found mother not at home, but at church. "I called and told you I was coming, and you went to church anyway."

The mother replied, "I'm sorry dear, but the Lord had already called."

DON'T FORGET WHO CALLED FIRST!

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

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.

WHAT'S A "SALVATION ISSUE"?

Denominational theologians use this phrase in the religious world to try to smooth over the doctrinal divides between religious groups. Sometimes even leaders in the Lord's church have used the phrase in to avoid splits and divisions. But what is a "salvation issue"?

The phrase "salvation issue" (a phrase never used in Scripture) usually refers to teachings about how to become a Christian. In the denominational world "salvation issue" usually refers to "believing in God the Father and Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God". All other teachings get demoted to the "they don't matter" category, because they're not considered "salvation issues".

In the Lord's church there are those who might defend a controversial teaching by suggesting that it is not a "salvation issue" and would therefore make have no impact on your salvation. But this is where faithful disciples need to ask the question, "How would the Lord define a 'salvation issue'?"

There are three categories into which most Christian teachings will fall: traditions, opinions, and commands.

Traditions are a set of teachings that leaders pass on to their students to help them keep God's law, and they can be very helpful (1 Cor. 11:2 / 2 Thess. 2:15 / 2 Thess. 3:6) as long as they aren't being taught as God's commands (Matt. 15:1-9).

Opinions (aka, judgments, liberties, or even conscience) include a wide range of persuasions that we humans hold about how to best obey the Lord; they can include tastes, cultural norms, human "think-so", scruples, or someone's experience-informed conclusions.

We are allowed by God's word to hold various traditions and opinions as long as they lie within the boundaries of God's pattern and don't become divisive over them. But as we hold them we must remember that traditions and opinions—according to the Lord (e.g., Matt. 15:1-9 / 1 Cor. 8-10)—are *not binding* and *can be altered* or changed.

To illustrate, we are commanded to meet on the first day of the week, but each congregation has its own *traditions* about meeting times and meeting places. Some congregations (for example, Italians) hold to a *tradition* that uses fermented wine for the Lord's supper, while others (for example, the U.S.) hold to a *tradition* of unfermented "new wine". And some hold the *opinion* Christmas shouldn't be celebrated, while others do celebrate. These traditions and opinions are not matters upon which our salvation might be endangered—"salvation issues".

Commands, on the other hand, are a different category. A command can be recognized through direct command, necessary inference, or approved example; and once a command is given through God's word, it is neither changeable nor optional. It simply needs to be obeyed. And obedience is important (Matt. 7:21ff). The very definition of sin is disobedience to the Lord's command (e.g., Lev. 26:21; Isa. 42:24; Rom. 6:16).

And obedience to the Lord's commands is why the meaning of "salvation issue" needs to be reexamined by those who use it. The Scripture teaches us: "For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins," Hebrews 10:26. Willful, deliberate disobedience in a Christian, according to this very clear, inspired verse, will result in no further forgiveness for sins. This is what makes the many Biblical teachings (doctrines and practices) beyond "faith, repentance, confession, and baptism" into "salvation issues", too—including some of the hotter worship topics of our day, a cappella singing and male leadership.

While some might want to limit "salvation issues" to only what one must initially do to be saved, the rest of God's will cannot be demoted and dismissed so quickly. The truth is that **obedience** is a salvation issue.

Park Linscomb

