

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

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Ruebush
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

*"We're Here
and We Care"*

4 REASONS TO ENCOURAGE SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICES (A GUEST EDITORIAL)

According to Thom Rainer, a church researcher, the typical Sunday night worship service conducted at the church building is a thing of the past. According to his research, only 5% of churches have "traditional" Sunday evening services. [That statistic is not representative of typical churches of Christ, but we are moving closer that direction]. I think all would agree that the number of times the church meets together on the Lord's Day is a decision to be made by a local eldership, and may scripturally differ from congregation to congregation. However, I would like to offer four reasons to continue having Sunday night services.

Broccoli. When I was a child, if my parents had left it up to me, I would have never tasted any vegetable. Due to my immaturity, my dietary choices would have been insufficient and unhealthy. Likewise, if one were to poll a congregation, consisting of some who are spiritually immature and babes in Christ, his feedback may be to dispense with a second meeting. Thus it becomes necessary for church leaders to be just that: leaders. They must decide to pursue what is best, not just what is desired. While it is not necessary for a local eldership to decide in favor of a second service, I believe that in most cases, it would demonstrate wisdom. *"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28).*

Charades. Several years ago, we had the youth group over to our house and we played, "Bible Charades." One young lady was to act out "David and Goliath." I noticed that she had a disconcerted look on her face, not knowing what to do. So I pulled her off in the hallway and reminded her of the basics (e.g. David was a shepherd, Goliath was a Philistine Giant, David killed Goliath etc.). So she said, "Ok, I can do it." So when she stood in front of the youth group, she jumped and acted as if she was stabbing someone really tall. This teenage girl had no idea that David killed Goliath with a sling-shot. Our innocuous game of charades revealed a lack of biblical knowledge. The decision to meet twice on Sunday is a decision intended to correct such ignorance. *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you...seeing you have forgotten the law of your God..." (Hosea 4:6).*

The Ciccarelli Brothers. When I was a young boy, two twins brothers who were a year older than me, decided to make me a mark of their bullying. One day, they informed me that they were going to beat me up after school. Since I didn't like my odds against two older boys, I surrounded myself with friends as I left school that day, and several days following, until they lost interest in me. Likewise, the Devil is "picking fights" with many of God's children, and they need the strength and encouragement of their brothers' and sisters' presence. The additional time spent with these brothers and sisters may be the strength they need to get through another week. *"I have shown you in every way...that you must support the weak" (Acts 20:35)*

And So Much The More. Some Christians in the first century had begun forsaking the assembling of the saints. The writer of the book of Hebrews instructed those Christians to stop forsaking the assembling of the saints, and "so much the more" in view of an impending day. In other words, whatever that impending day was (e.g. persecution, the second coming of Jesus), it was all the more important to assemble together. Likewise the growing hostility of our culture towards Christianity, and the fact that we are closer to the return of Jesus, would suggest that more, not less time is needed to assemble together. *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).*

Whether a church meets once, twice, or three times on Sunday, and whether those meetings be structured as preaching, Bible classes, or a mixture of both, just make sure that the decision is not based on convenience or social calendars, but upon what is best for the spiritual growth and maturity of the body of Christ.

By Steve Higginbotham (edited for space)

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 .

THIS SUNDAY is our 5PM singing practice in the fellowship hall. Join us and learn some new ones.

NEXT SUNDAY IS THE LEADERSHIP MEETING. Elders, deacons, and the preacher will meet starting at 3:30 for the elders, and 4PM for everyone else.

OUR ADULT BIBLE STUDIES...

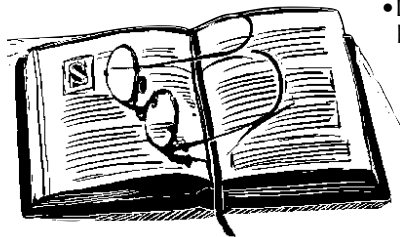
- Sunday morning at 9AM is on 1 Timothy and we are in chapter 5
- Wednesday evening we are in 1 Corinthians 11.

Come and bring you kids, too (they'll have some great Bible classes too.) Sure, you could watch online, but you'd miss

two excellent advantages that come with being here in person: 1) the ability to ask questions for clarification, curiosity, or new thoughts and 2) the opportunity to have fellowship with others. Let's make summer a time to really dig into God's word and develop a new uplifting spiritual habit.

A NEW YOUTUBE PLAYLIST from the church is worth checking out.

- 1) Go to YouTube online. If you have a Google account, most of us do, you'll be recognized
- 2) Do a search for the Rock Hill church of Christ
- 3) Hit the "Subscribe button" on the upper right side of the page. If you've already subscribed before you can skip this step.



- 4) On the left side of the page under the Subscriptions heading, look for Rock Hill church of Christ; click on the button, which will take you our channel.
- 5) At the top you'll see links to "Home", "Videos", "Live", "Podcasts", and "Playlists". If you click on "Playlist" you see a number of choices, the most recent of which is "Thoughts from the Rock Hill church of Christ".

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CHURCH IN PITTSFIELD — they've sent us a newsletter; we've printed it and put it in the back near the bulletins. Check it out.

THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH — Those who wish to provide the Pittsfield MA church money for their benevolence fund monthly can see Trudy R. to contribute.

ADDRESS UPDATES?? — Please check our online address book and see if your information is correct. If not, please let Nancy Jones know.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS...

- Doug Jones for improved heart health
- Ora H. reentered the hospital because of a bleeding incision, but is able to come home
- Please pray for Linda Curry's brother, Gilbert Box, with heart problems. He has several other issues going on and they've revived him twice. He's currently in the heart cath lab waiting for a special cardiologist to determine what's next.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Esther Myrick asks for prayers from us, a very low blood count, especially her white count. Pray that the Lord will heal her.
- Ken Conklin is now home, but will still need prayers as he gains strength through PT and OT.
- Reiven H — Pray for a quick and complete recovery.
- Suzanne asks for strength for her mother Bonnie. She wants so badly to be able to attend services but does not have the physical

strength to do so.

- From Juliana: Pray for Becky B., recovering from tongue cancer surgery.
- Our missionary in Pittsfield MA, the Staffords, now has their grand-daughter, Peyton living with. Please pray for them in this transition.
- Please pray for Eloise's recovery for a broken bone from a fall.
- Mary H is recovering at home.
- Ralph L. suffering from double vision.
- Jim B.'s daughter-in-law is terminal.
- Bonnie D recovering from a minor stroke.
- Sue C: digestive problems
- Churches in New England
- Brethren in India
- Our leaders, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregation.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS

- Emma's grandmother, Karla R, dementia and cancer.
- Elizabeth's cousin Tracy with Lupus, and also her cousin Debbie H.
- Isela H's sister Griselda's illness
- Carol P.
- Dale and Lavonia C.
- Julia's nurse friend, Michaela
- Rosa's friend Isabella, heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Ken C.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- ☐ Jun 1, Neh 1-3
- ☐ Jun 2, Neh 4-6
- ☐ Jun 3, Neh 7-8
- ☐ Jun 4, Neh 9-10
- ☐ Jun 5, Neh 11-13
- ☐ Jun 6, Esther 1-3
- ☐ Jun 7, Esther 4-7
- ☐ Jun 8, Esther 8-10

The Christian husband displays what he thinks of Christ by the way he treats his wife.

John MacArthur

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.

EMBRACE THE BLESSINGS

Would you agree with this statement: "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments..." Most Bible students would quickly agree, I suspect. But what if we quoted the rest of the verse: "...and His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3)? Perhaps, the second part would draw out the more skeptical side of many. Yeah, I get it.

When I was a freshman in college I had an interest in philosophy, deep thoughts, and logical thinking; so, I took a couple of courses in philosophy. Somewhere in his opening remarks my first professor made a statement that I had never thought about before, "Philosophy is always about living a happy life." The more I read, the more I thought, the more I saw that he was right. From Plato to the most contemporary philosophers, their deep thoughts were all about ways of thinking and acting that would lead to a better, happier life. Even thoughtful pagans and atheists realize that the short-term happiness of sensuality, drunkenness, lack of self-discipline, laziness, and irresponsibility unerringly resulted in longer-term unhappiness, dishonor, and emptiness. So, although pagan philosophers weren't guided by God's word or even morality directed by the their gods (the gods sinned as much as humans), it was philosophers that taught men to be good as a road to long-term happiness, honor, and fulfillment.

But it wasn't necessary among God's people, because they had something better—much better. They had a caring God, who gave them commands that would astonish the philosophers and be the envy of the entire world. In a revealing passage in Deuteronomy 4:5-8 Moses tells Israel,

"See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it. So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him? Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

Here's a tragically overlooked facet of God's commands laid out before us. God's commands are a blessing! They are not burdensome. Indeed, it is the **sins** that we commit that become burdensome and curse our lives.

Let me illustrate with the very first story of mankind in the Bible, the story of Adam and Eve. God had created and laid before Adam and Eve a world of blessings even greater than the beautiful world in which we now live. God put them in the Garden of Eden, a world full of blessing. But the Garden He also placed the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, their only choice for disobedience. God told them that they would die, if they ate from it; but Adam and Eve ate from it anyway, apparently thinking that God's warning was a bluff.

Thus, we now live with death and the others curses carried into the world by their disobedience. Instead of embracing the blessings of obedience, the first man and woman chose the curses. As with Adam and Eve, so with us; when we embrace God's commands, we embrace blessings for our lives. As we embrace sinful deeds, words, and attitudes, we embrace trouble, curses, and destruction for ourselves.

Think about it with me just a moment. God's laws...

- ...about marriage brings personal happiness, love, emotional stability, economic stability, fulfillment, real satisfaction, the best chance for well-adjusted children, and (on the societal scale) societal stability.
- ...on children obeying their parents gives children (from infancy to adulthood) the benefit of wisdom, experience, skills, and mistakes. It will be the difference between success vs. trouble and heartache and long-term happiness.
- ...on sexual morality gives appropriate structure and parameters to a very powerful appetite, gives stability and security to marriages and homes, avoids diseases, avoids powerful emotional damage and distress, dodges watering down your marriage bond, and stops perversions before they get started.
- ...on turning the other cheek we find peace more often, we avoid the violence that begets more revenge and more violence, and we don't bear the grudges that hurt the grudge holder more than it hurts the offender.
- ...on forgiveness kills grudges, brings family healing, reconciles friends, and is the foundation for peace and love.
- ...on using our tongues correctly avoid the curses of hurt feelings, fights, and the general evil that the tongue can do. And it gives blessing, when we use our tongues well.
- ...on no worrying avoids disease, ulceration, and misery.
- ...on humility avoids pride, arrogance, and bragging. Humility, on the other hand, blesses with appreciation and uplift of others.
- ...on cooperation and service builds love, accomplishes more, and breeds social ties like nothing else.
- ...on self-control and self-indulgence provides the gatekeeper of so many blessings, making a major difference in one's life and success.
- ...on drunkenness and drugs saves from broken homes, broken lives, broken health, broken minds, and broken souls.
- ...on patience succeeds when others have quit, shows mercy to those who've had difficulty, and reflects one of the things we are most grateful to God about.
- ...on courage, when obeyed success, and a good conscience about standing for the truth.

And the list could go on about truth, honesty, integrity, love, kindness, and gentleness. And that's not even to speak of the blessings accompanying religious commands about church attendance, singing in worship, prayer, giving, thanksgiving, worshipping, Scripture reading, fellowship, and involvement—all of which are blessings to our spiritual lives.

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN JUNE

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00AM Bible classes 10:00AM Worship 5:00PM First Sunday singing practice 6:00PM Worship | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | <div>Cleve S</div> <div>Zeke R</div> | | 7:00PM Wed. Bible class | | | | |

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Week of June 1.....AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsJim BJim B
 Song LeadingDoug J.....Scott WReiven H
 Opening PrayerTom RJohn S
 CommunionCharles H.....Burley S
 Closing Prayer.....Scott WCharles H
 A/V Control.....John SHunter M.....Charles H
 Greeter.....Burley S

Week of Jun 08AM.....PM.....Wed.

AnnouncementsJohn SJohn S
 Song LeadingScott WDoug JCharles H
 Opening PrayerDavid J.....Hugh R
 CommunionYaw FRalph K
 Closing Prayer.....Jim BReiven H
 A/V Control.....Hunter M.....Charles H.....John S
 Greeter.....Jim B



Sermon Notes...
