

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

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"*

"The Things Concerning Me Have an End"

The plan of God revolved around His Son, Jesus including His death burial and resurrection. The plan of God also included the Holy Spirit and the Apostles. Although we place a great deal of emphasis upon the Savior, we cannot overlook the importance of the work that the Apostles did after the ascension of the Christ. Jesus makes this clear in **John 9:4** when He said, "I must work the works of Him who sent me", but he also had told them in **John 14:28**, "Ye have heard that I have said unto you, I go away and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice because I said I go unto the Father." The work of the Son is readily seen in hindsight. It was evident that He (Jesus) knew his part because of His prayer in the Garden. Note what He said recorded in **Matthew 26:39** "O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt." To further clarify, look at **Luke 22:37**, "For I say unto you, this that is written must be accomplished in me: "and He was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end." With Jesus' last words recorded in **John 19:30** he said, "It is finished" and he gave up the ghost."

Although all things in prophecy regarding Jesus' sacrifice were fulfilled, there remained the preparation for the continuance of God's plan concerning salvation. **Acts 1:3** says it this way, "He shewed himself alive...being seen of them for forty days...and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Herein lies the significance of what Jesus told Peter in **Matthew 16:18-19**, "upon this rock (of truth) I will build my church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys to the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven." The continuation of God's mysterious plan included not only the sacrifice of a Savior but the establishment of the Church; the introduction of the Gospel; the reign of Jesus as the sovereign King over the Kingdom, and the 'giving' of the Holy Ghost.

Bible students often overlook the significance of the work of the Apostles concerning the Word of Truth. This is precisely what Jesus meant when He spoke these words to Peter. It would be the responsibility of the apostles to deliver the Gospel, under the direction of the Holy Spirit of God.

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 .

A SPRING SINGING WORKSHOP April 16-19, Ken Dawdy will be here for a singing workshop. Ken will teach on worship in song on Sunday and then will hold workshops each evening Monday through Wednesday.



Ken Dawdy

LEADERSHIP MEETING is today at 4PM. Elders and deacons will be meeting in the fellowship hall.

BENEVOLENCE FUND FOR THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH— Trudi R. continues to collect funds for an ongoing monthly benevolence program for the Pittsfield church. The Pittsfield church has sent a thank you card, and if you'd like to see what has been sent to Pittsfield, there's a note on the bulletin board.

FREIDA R. continues to recover at home after her stay in the hospital.

CHUCK TOOLEY — Chuck passed away from complica-

tions due to his cancer, chemo therapy and kidney failure. The family just had a private ceremony. Chuck was a very faithful member of the church and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him, especially our Rock Hill family. We grieve for his family and pray that they have peace.

PARK RETURNS tomorrow from a successful Gospel meeting in Manchester NH and White Rock Fund promotion. Pray for a safe journey.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- A great time was had by all those who came to our youth event at "Pump It Up" yesterday!
- A 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.

JOHN B'S SURGERY went well and he now recovering.

PRAYER LISTS...

- Nancy J asks us to pray for relative Tom Kissinger
- John B. is in need of further vein surgery on his left leg
- Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
- Dianna Conkling
- Hugh R.'s sister Andrea
- Sue Carter

*The Lord is good
to all.
(Psalm 145:9)*

- Isela H.'s friend Jeff, 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 friend Isabella with a heart lesion
 - Travis Y. feeding tube
 - Dianna C.
 - Ken C.
 - Mary H. and daughter Sharon

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Mar 26, Judges 20-21
- Mar 27, Ruth 1-4
- Mar 28, 1 Sam 1-3
- Mar 29, 1 Sam 4-7
- Mar 30, 1 Sam 8-10
- Mar 31, 1 Sam 11-13
- Apr 1, 1 Sam 14-15
- Apr 2, 1 Sam 16-17

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.

FOR THE FALL AND RISE OF MANY

After Jesus' birth in a stable, Joseph and Mary traveled to the Temple 40 days later to perform the purification sacrifices for Mary (Lev. 13), present their firstborn son to the Lord, and redeem then Him with 5 shekels (Numbers 18:15,16).

While they were there they encountered two separate individuals with extraordinary prophecies about the expected the Messiah. One of them was an old man named Simeon, to whom the Holy Spirit had promised that he would see the Messiah with his own eyes before he died. When Simeon saw Jesus...

"[He] blessed them and said to Mary His mother, 'Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed-- and a sword will pierce even your own soul--to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.'" (Luke 2:34, 35)

On first reading, this passage seems to be a bit cryptic. That's usually enough to give some a good excuse to just skip this part and move on, but I think there's something important here that is worthy of reflection. What is he saying?

This wondrous Child, the Consolation of Israel, would ironically not be welcomed by everyone. Many would stumble over him. Isaiah prophesied of this in Isaiah 8:14, 15,

"Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, ..."

And this is exactly what happened to many in Israel. Jesus quoted a Psalm (118:22) paralleling Isaiah about this about in Matthew 21:42, "Jesus *said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures, 'THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone...'"

On the other hand, the Messiah would also be the cause for many to rise. Isaiah 28:16 "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed." The term that Simeon uses, "rise", functions not just as the opposite of "fall", but also as a reference to spiritual resurrection (John 5:25 and Romans 6:3-5) and salvation.

But Simeon goes on to declare that Jesus would be a "sign" to be opposed or spoken against. Prophets were often referred to as "a sign", and they were often opposed and spoken against, of course—Jesus, even more than others, because of the claims He made. And this is where it gets really interesting.

Simeon prophesied that the Christ Child would be opposed "to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." This is to say that *opposition to or obedience to Jesus* would make plain the side that one is really on. People make a lot of religious claims about what they believe and whose spiritual side they're on, but obedience reveals one's true allegiance. Disobedience to *Jesus* is really opposition to God, while submission to *Jesus*, is really submission to God: His salvation, way, life, promises, redemption, and word. Some in Israel hated, resisted, and finally crucified Jesus—demonstrating their real heart toward the God they claimed to worship. On the other hand, there were others who loved, submitted, and followed Him, revealing their true hearts.

But Jesus is still the Revealer of men's hearts, whether among Jews or Gentiles. Our response to Him—submission or omission to His word—is the X-ray machine of our hearts about our thoughts toward God. Our response to Jesus—obedience or convenience—pulls back the veil about our true priorities, our spirituality or our carnality, and our love or apathy toward God, regardless of our claims and words.

The choices to be made about Jesus are pretty stark, but Jesus in His typical candor told us long ago, (Matthew 12:30) "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters." As William Barclay put it, "Towards Jesus Christ there can be no neutrality. We either surrender to Him or are at war with Him. And it is the tragedy of life that the pride of man keeps us from making that surrender wherein is victory." Our response to Him must be submission to *His* salvation (contrasted to one of our own creation), making Jesus our priority (as opposed to a religious hobby), and a faithful discipleship to *Him* (contrasted to an obedience of convenience).

Choose Jesus.

Park Linscomb

