

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"*

GOD'S PLAN, PART 11

There can never be too much emphasis placed upon the events of Acts 2 concerning the Plan of God. In fact, it is the transition from prophesy to the actual events that remain as current today for all things that pertain to "life and Godliness" expressed in II Peter 1:3. It is the culmination of prophecy, and the expression of Inspired writers under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, all of which is under the "commandment of God" John 12:49.

The significance of Peter's sermon on that day was both accurate, powerful and timely. The audience was comprised of "devout men out of every Nation under heaven" Acts 2:5. The moment was predicated by "the sound of a rushing mighty wind, and... there appeared unto them, cloven tongues as of fire that sat upon all of them". Had these things not been sufficient enough, Peter reminds his audience of the Prophet Joel's Prophecy in Joel 2:28 regarding the "pouring out His Spirit upon all flesh". Knowing the Judean background of the audience, Peter reminds them of the patriarch David, and the words of Nathan the prophet in II Samuel 7:12-16, "when thy days are fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish His kingdom...I will be His father and He shall be my son...and thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever."

As Peter continues, he confirms in Acts 2: 22-36 "hear these words...Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you...being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken and crucified... let me speak freely of the patriarch David...being a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins...He would raise up Christ to sit on His throne...He hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear...therefore, let all of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, that you have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 2:47 confirms that the Church was in existence from that time forward. This great event marks the maturity of God's eternal plan, and the salvation made available through the blood of Christ. It also underwrites the beginning of the "Instruction in Righteousness" of the New Testament that separates the sheep from the goats.

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!** 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 .

HAPPY EASTER — If you are visiting with us especially because it is Easter, welcome and please consider coming to Bible study and worship more often. You'll always receive a warm welcome and biblical answer to your questions.

AN ECLIPSE PARTY — Just in case you weren't aware of it, April 8 (a Monday at about 1:40pm) will have total eclipse of the sun. Everyone who'd like to join in watching this unique astronomical event will be gathering in the fellowship hall for a light lunch about noon and getting a chance to experience it all together. Join us, it should be fun.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY — Park will be out of town briefly over Wednesday. So, Doug Jones will be out Bible class teacher this Wednesday. The Wednesday afterward we'll discuss "Does God hear your prayers before you become a Christian?"

OUR LADIES ANNUAL SPRING FLING will be Saturday April 20th at 11:00 in the fellowship hall. More info will be coming your way soon.

BIRTHDAY CAKE will be April 28th for March and April's birthday celebration. We are combining them because the normal March date is Easter this year.

THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH — We have an ongoing monthly benevolence program to help the Berkshire County church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. See Trudy R. to contribute.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Melinda Stafford's mother in S. Africa has had a stroke and is non responsive. Cleve has gone back to Massachusetts to arrange a flight for Melinda to go to South Africa. Cleve asks us to pray for Melinda, who is very distraught.
- Joan Votaw is having bad back pain. She had surgery last week; pray for successful.
- Bonnie Davidson has had a minor stroke. Please pray for Suzanne and Alice as they take care of their mother and for Bonnie to improve.
- Lynn Turner recovering from a broken leg, now in PT. Lynn also has cancer
- Burley Stinnett Jr. — various health issues

- Rachel W's friend, Madeline, with Guillain-Barré syndrome
- Whitney Perez, cancer chemo
- Zeke R. — PTSD, depression, a VA issues. Also, Zeke's sister-in-law Carmen R., eye sight
- Dianna C. for cancer treatment
- Sue Carter: digestive problems
- Freida R. recovering
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Ora Holt, kidney
- the churches in New England
- brethren in India
- our elders, deacons, preacher, teachers, parents, families, marriages, widows, and singles of our congregational

O LONG TERM REQUESTS

- Isela Hughes' sister Griselda's illness & friend Jeff with cancer (very ill)
- 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
- Ken C.

What's Going On?

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Mar 31, 1 Sam 11-13
- Apr 1, 1 Sam 14-15
- Apr 2, 1 Sam 16-17
- Apr 3, 1 Sam 18-20
- Apr 4, 1 Sam 21-24
- Apr 5, 1 Sam 25-27
- Apr 6, 1 Sam 28-31

The aim is not necessarily to become a master of the Word, but to be mastered by it.

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.

DIDN'T OUR HEARTS BURN? LK 24:32

The longest story that Luke relates in the resurrection story is about the two disciples that were walking back to Emmaus, a town that is reported to be about 7 miles into the country from Jerusalem. One of them, named Cleopas, may be the husband of a woman (another Mary) who was among the women who watched the Savior die (John 19:25) and was present when the tomb was discovered empty (Mark 16:1). He and his companion certainly had a lot to discuss and puzzle out in their approximately 2-3 hour walk to Emmaus, the perplexing reports of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. As they were discussing these things, a stranger approached and joined their conversation. Interestingly enough, the stranger remarked, "O foolish men, and **slow of heart to believe** in all that the prophets have spoken!" and then had answers and explanations from the Scriptures regarding what was confusing them. When they reached their destination, they were so excited by the stranger's enlightening answers to these mysteries that they invited him to stay and have something to eat with them. At dinner, the stranger did something odd, He took and broke the bread (usually a host's job), and in the breaking of the bread, the eyes of Cleopas and his friend were opened to understand that it was Jesus — at which time, He disappeared. They went quickly back to Jerusalem to report what they had seen to the 11 apostles.

We still often have "slow hearts", don't we? Discouraged and unbelieving. Thinking too much like secular folks, like we are unlearned in Scripture despite the prophecies, the promises, and God's consistent record of care, grace, faithfulness, and love. We count our complaints and not our blessings, we see only the broken and confusing things and situations in life and wonder where God is. We see prayers,

dreams, and hopes unfulfilled, and we despair like the two "slow-hearted" men on the road to Emmaus. Until...

Until the Lord came along anonymously and began to explain the Scriptures, how these tragic things were prophesied and should have been expected. But also how God was going to do something wonderful and marvelous — the greatest miracle ever — the resurrection of the Christ. As they were traveling along, "the light bulbs" started coming on in their minds, the pieces started to fall together in surprising and amazing ways. In their own words, "**Were not our hearts burning** within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

And this is the power and comfort of the Scriptures in times of trouble, fear, heartbreak, grief, and pain. Trying to make sense of it with our own limited human wisdom will always come up far too short, often wrong, and "slow of heart". With God's wisdom, insight, and truth about spiritual reality we come away comforted, wiser, stronger, and convicted in our faith, because "...faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17).

Christian faith is not a blind belief, it is evidenced and informed, and has hearts burning with confidence. Indeed, a real grasp on the profound meaning and amazing reality of the resurrection can still do that.

The men on the road to Emmaus went from slow hearts of unbelief (24:25) to burning hearts of convicted belief (24:32) on the basis of divinely revealed insights. Come find the burning heart of belief in the study of God's word with us.

Park Linscomb



