

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"*

MORE WORK TO DO

The proof or disproof of baptism and the part it plays in God's plan for salvation will be debated among people for as long as the world stands. I believe it to be one of those topics that can be identified in ***Ephesians 5:17***, "*Be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is*".....concerning baptism or any topic of choice. Please notice that the phrase concerning baptism is not in the text, but it helps to clarify ANY spiritual point that is under consideration. Here is the reason: ***Revelation 22:18-19*** informs us that we are "*not at liberty to add-to or take-from the things that are written in this Book.*" We are instructed to be accurate in our understanding; to '*Study to show ourselves approved unto God, rightly dividing the Word of Truth*' ***2 Timothy 2:15.***

This thought also extends to the *amount of emphasis* that can be placed upon any topic. It is possible to place a higher degree of emphasis than God places upon it, thereby adding to what God gives us. This is also an "unwise practice" and can get us into trouble as it did the scribes and Pharisees in ***Matthew 23:1-37***. Jesus rebukes them for fundamental practices of righteousness that came as a result of selfish intentions. Jesus acknowledges the righteous deeds they have done, but the misplaced motives were clearly identified as well (note v.23). In order to be righteous, they needed to do the right things for the right reasons. Otherwise, they remain incomplete in the Lord!

This is why ***Ephesians 5:17*** is so important to the Christian. As spiritual people, we are a conservative people. However our conservatism should never limit what God has provided in His word. Too often it is possible to think that conservatism and righteousness are essentially the same thing; if we do not have complete understanding of a topic, we might take the most conservative position which makes us safe in the eyes of the Lord. This actually means we have yet to study, meditate, and discuss God's word to arrive at truth. This also indicates we have room to grow and more work yet to do.

Our goal is to hit the mark concerning baptism and practice what God, our Messiah and the apostles all taught, practiced and commanded. It is not an effort to convince others of a "Church of Christ" doctrine but coming to a fuller understanding of, "*What the will of the Lord is*".

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 .

LEADERSHIP MEETING — Our elders, deacons, and preacher will be meeting next Sunday afternoon, 4PM, to discuss the business of the congregation. If you have some special project or concern you'd like to see addressed, please one of our leaders know.

A PARENTING SEMINAR is being offered by the Centerville Rd. church of Christ in Garland TX on October 28, 29. A poster with details can be found on the bulletin board in the back. The speaker will be Jeff Miller of Apologetics Press.

THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH

- There's a new card from the Staffords posted on the bulletin board about the current progress. Check it out.
- We have an ongoing monthly benevolence program to help the Berkshire County church of Christ in Pittsfield Mass. See Trudy R. to contribute

THE WHITE ROCK FUND is holding their annual Reporting and Fundraising Day this year on Oct 28. There are brochures in the foyer about it, if you'd like to be uplifted about mission work. Incidentally, Park is speaking briefly during the

luncheon. If you'd like to go, let Park know, perhaps we could car-pool.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Linda M's niece Sandra
- Sue Carter with digestive problems
- Kaitlyn's injured toe

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Freida R. has with pneumonia
- Bonnie D. broken shoulder and, struggling; Suzanne as she cares for her mother
- The Hill family at the loss of Haide
- Elizabeth H's family.
- Margret home and recovering
- Jim P. — radiation therapy for prostate cancer.
- Fernando Z's father, Ramon — radiation therapy for lung cancer.
- Sandy L's sister, Lisa, in hospice care in Mississippi .
- The Stafford's grand-daughter
- Isela Hughes'...
 - sister Griselda Walters
 - friend Jeff, cancer
- Sarai Lyons' friend Tiffany M.

- Dianna C, chemo recovery
- Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
- Sue Carter
- 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
- Ken C.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Oct 1, Zechariah 11-14
- Oct 2, Malachi 1-4
- Oct 3, Matthew 1-4
- Oct 4, Matthew 5-6
- Oct 5, Matthew 7-9
- Oct 6, Matthew 10-12
- Oct 7, Matthew 13-14
- Oct 8, Matthew 15-17

1Cor. 1:10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

"If you're not confident in the authority of the scriptures, you will be a slave to what sounds right"

(MATT CHANDLER)

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.

WORKS OF THE FLESH, PART 4

We've been talking in this bulletin space for the last few weeks about the works of the flesh. Last week was about relational sins of strife, enmity, etc., topics that are especially relevant in this divisive world climate. And if I may I'd like to make one more point on the subject: ideas and words do have consequences. Disagreements will occur between humans, but they needn't devolve into either thoughts or words of violence. Harsh, strong, hateful words, the very language of hatred and evil, very often flower into acts of violence. But on to the subjects at hand.

These last two works of the flesh found in Galatians 5 have to do with — as some put it — "PARTY".

Drunkenness — While drunkenness is directly associated with alcohol, the principle extends to being inebriated or under the influence from any substance used "recreationally", from marijuana to speed to barbiturates to opioids. Drunkenness of any sort dulls the mind's ability to make good judgments, control the impulses, or even control the body. It loosens inhibitions, dissolves our "filters", and tarnishes our influence. The Christian constantly lives in a spiritual battlefield, and he needs to have his mind fully functioning, to exercise good judgment, control the impulses, and conduct himself as true light and salt in a lost world.

In a darker way, there is another reason for drunkenness other than partying, dulling emotional pain. To address this fully would take too long here, but suffice it to say that dulling pain this way only makes things worse, not better. How many families have been broken, how many careers have been ruined, how lives have been lost (in drunk driving and overdoses), and how many have suffered due to various kinds of substance abuse. To use a figure, it is better to deal with a wound with healing medicine than to just take painkillers, until the wound turns into gan-

grene. If you're in pain, if you're lonely, if you feel the weight of guilt, if you feel hopeless, if you feel powerless, if you feel shame; bring it to the Lord (the Great Physician with the healing medicine), not the bottle, the joint, or the "hit" (the painkillers).

Carousing — Here's a word that speaks to what happens when one becomes drunken, when good judgment is gone, when decency is cast aside, when even the worst moral choices seem like good ideas. The Greek word is komos; and translators use "rev-elings", "orgies", "riotous feasting", "disorderly dancing", and even "rioting" to convey its meaning. Now, when we think of orgies, we think of the ancient Greeks and Romans, but this isn't just an ancient problem; it persists even today. Carousing is where life changing deeds are often committed: embarrassments that follow us the rest of our days, deeds that effect our family life for the rest of our lives, crimes for which we must answer, and sometimes even deaths. How many lives have been ruined, how many souls have been lost, in a party that got "a bit" excessive? This is not to say, of course, that celebration and parties are sinful. God commanded certain annual celebrations among the children of Israel. Jesus Himself went to weddings and feasts. Such celebrations are good and healthy for the heart and soul. It is to say, however, that fun does have proper limits that the Christian must observe as he or she lives in the presence of the Lord. But carousing recognizes no such limits, and so it consequently sins against both God and man.

The Lord isn't a "cosmic killjoy"; fun and celebration is definitely something that Christians can and should enjoy. But like many other good things that God has granted to men, it is possible to turn a blessing into a curse through crossing the boundaries God has given. Stay away from these and other

works of the flesh, avoid their curses, and receive the blessings of walking in the Spirit.

Park Linscomb



