

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"*

THE VALUE OF THE WATER

It is interesting to remember the use of such an every-day substance such as 'water' in the Plan of God. One of the great biblical accounts contained in the Old Testament includes the use of water to 'reconcile' the creation of mankind in the eyes of God. From the first accounts of God's creation in **Genesis 1** "*in the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*" Shortly thereafter, He created the Man Adam and then his partner, Eve as recorded in **Genesis 2**. It is debatable how many years transpired before the fall of mankind, and the displeasure God revealed with the apparent evil He identified in **Genesis 6:5-7**, "*And God saw the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...and it repented God that he had made man...and the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I had made from the face of the earth...for it repenteth Me that I have made them.*"

Genesis 6:8 brings a change in the mind of God, because as the Word says, "*Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*" This is the first and perhaps the most profound example of what God's grace really looks like! Even after God had made the decision to destroy man and accept the fact that man was a disappointment. We read in **Genesis 7:1** the precise reason Noah received God's grace, "*And the Lord said, for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. "God did not eradicate His creation of man, but extended the right to life into the next generation.*"

Peter made mention of this in his writing. He refers to the Ark (boat) built by Noah, and the longsuffering of God as He waited while the ark was being prepared. We should find it interesting that even though God had condemned all of mankind to death, He did not intervene and prematurely destroy those who would eventually lose their life and be condemned by the flood. What Peter wrote is a distinct record of God's intentions. He said in **1 Peter 3:20-21** "*God waited in the days of Noah, while the Ark was in preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water, the like figure whereunto even baptism doth now also save us (not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*"

More to follow

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 .

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM (elders, deacons, and preacher) will be postponed to next Sunday (9/17) at 4:00PM in the fellowship hall.

LADIES' CLASS — Our ladies' next gathering will be September 12, and will continue weekly. Join in the study and the fellowship.

THE MEN'S BREAKFAST will resume Sept 16, Saturday, 9AM. Theme: to be announced.

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

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. Check it out.

NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Elizabeth H's mother died last week and the funeral was Friday. Pray for the family.

OUR PRAYER LIST...

- Park for a successful recovery from cataract surgery
- Margret in PAM Health Rehab Hospital
- Linda Moore continued recovery after knee surgery.
- Norma Bautista recovering at home from broken bones
- 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 .
 - Freida R, recovering at home
 - The Stafford's granddaughter
 - Isela Hughes'...
 - sister Griselda Walters
 - friend Jeff, cancer
 - Dianne H's sister-in-law with a brain tumor
 - Sarai Lyons' friend Tiffany M.
 - Dianna C, chemo recovery
 - Bonnie D. broken

shoulder

- 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

- Sep 10, Ezekiel 44-45
- Sep 11, Ezekiel 46-48
- Sep 12, Daniel 1-3
- Sep 13, Daniel 4-6
- Sep 14, Daniel 7-8
- Sep 15, Daniel 9-10
- Sep 16, Daniel 11-12
- Sep 17, Hosea 1-6

Heb. 13:7-9 — “Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings”

**JESUS HAS FACED
WHAT YOU FACE, HE
HAS ENDURED WHAT
YOU ENDURE, AND
HAS BEATEN WHAT
YOU ARE BATTLING.**

— MARK DRISCOLL

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 1

The Christian is to walk and live by the Spirit and not according to the flesh (Galatians 5:16-18 and Romans 8:5-14). But for everyone who has decided to follow Jesus there is the discovery of how difficult discipleship is.

One of the things that makes it difficult in our modern day is the lack of clarity about what is a work of the flesh (sin) is and what is not. In our day the world has disoriented the majority by calling good evil and evil good—"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!" (Isaiah 5:20). So, it is useful now and again for Christians to go to the lists of sins and righteousness in the Bible to be reminded of what really is good and bad. Moreover, it is crucial to define what these things actually are, because the world has often redefined their meanings to obscure what God has commanded. So, the for the next few weeks I'd like to take a look at the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit as they are found in Galatians 5:19-23 in this space in our bulletin for your reflection and encouragement.

Paul begins with the works of the flesh and his first three have to do with primarily with sexual sin: sexual immorality, impurity, and sensuality.

Sexual immorality — The word in the Greek text is "*porneia*". The word came from the word for prostitute, and is where we get the word "pornography". But the word is broader in its New Testament (NT) use. It is often translated "fornication", a word that incorporates everything from pre-marital sex (promiscuous, one-night-stands, or someone I'm really in love with), to adultery, to homosexuality, to prostitution, to pedophilia, to bestiality, to necrophilia, and any other sexual act outside the heterosexual marriage relationship. I do not list these things for the sake of being gross or for titillation. Believe it or not, the world has found ways to justify most of these sins to itself. The disciple of the Lord needs to know where the lines are.

Impurity — The word here is "*akatharsia*" and it essentially refers to whatever might defile a person. In the Old Testament it could refer to everything from eating unclean meat to touching a dead body. But since Jesus (Mark 7:14-23) and His new covenant made the Mosaic idea of ritual impurity obsolete, the meaning of impurity shifted its weight toward the deeds we do which defile us. In 1 Cor. 6:18-20 Paul points out that sexual sin defiles the temple of the Holy Spirit, our bodies. And indeed, it is most often associated in the NT with sexual sin (e.g., Rev. 17:4). But in other contexts it is also used as an opposite of "holy" (e.g., 1 Thess. 4:7), describing a mind or heart that is filled with worldly unclean thoughts, desires, and passions. Ever met one of those sorts of people, with whom nothing is so wholesome that can't be made into some dirty joke? Christians must take care to keep their hearts pure.

Sensuality — The Greek word here is "*aselgeia*"; English Bible translations have used "lasciviousness", "licentiousness", "indecent", and "sensuality" to try to get across its meaning. But J.B. Lightfoot has given a more meaningful definition: "*aselgeia*" indicates a love of sin so reckless and so audacious that a man has ceased to care what God or man thinks of his actions." It is, in other words, a heart that is lost to shame; and it would seem to be the main goal of many modern sinners (Romans 1:32). "Come out of the closet!", "Normalize!", and "Don't judge me!" seem to be the (im)moral themes of the day. But Christians understand the rightful and useful places of conscience, self-respect, and even shame in the battle of the flesh against the Spirit.

Paul said about these things, "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident..." (Gal. 5:19). A recent president was criticized for failing to call radical Islamic terrorists what they are, "radical Islamic terrorists"; because to fail to truly identify the enemy is make yourself vulnerable to his attacks. Let's call sin, sin. These things are works of the flesh; let us walk by the Spirit.

