

# 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 GREAT MYSTERY OF SALVATION

I was reading an article for which I had no record of the author, but the topic concentrated upon the reasons why baptism was not required for salvation. It is sad that writers produce so many "logical" explanations without including the scriptures that apply directly to baptism. It seemed rather obvious that the writer was determined to show how firmly he/she believed in their religious doctrine rather than what God had to say about it. We should be dedicated to the **2 Timothy 3:16** "instruction in righteousness" knowing that it will judge us in the last day **John 12:48**.

I like to think of what God has done for us in this manner: **Ephesians 3:1-11** indicates that God had "an eternal Purpose." That it was "purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." It was "hid in God and held as a mystery". Unknown to man "until the fullness of time" **Galatians 4:4**. Jesus chose his 12 apostles with purpose and intent. They were trained at the feet of Jesus until it was time for Him to depart into Heaven in **Acts 1:9-11**. His final instruction is given in **Acts 1:4-5**, that they should "not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of the Father." We know that the promise of the Father was the coming of the Holy Spirit **Acts 1:8**.

Each of these undeniable truths culminate in **Acts 2** with the coming of the Holy Spirit, the establishment of the Lord's church, and examples for God's mysterious plan of salvation. There were "about three thousand souls" that "gladly received his word". **Verse 41** says "they that gladly received his word were baptized." **Acts 2:47** gives us an indicator concerning the church and said, "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

To continue the historical facts concerning this everlasting kingdom, we find Jesus coming to his apostles after resurrection to encourage them about the task before them. This is given in **Matthew 28:19** as well as **Mark 16:15-16**. We call this "The Great Commission." It can not be stated more firmly than Jesus' words when he was quoted in **Matthew**, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost." **Mark** was slightly more direct when he said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (condemned)."

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 .

**BIRTHDAY CAKE SUNDAY** — Every last Sunday of the month we have a special fellowship for all the birthdays of the current month. Join us for a light supper and birthday cake after church this evening after worship.

**HAIDE HILL** passed on to be with the Lord week before last; please pray for Terry and the family. Memorial services were yesterday in Wink, TX. Several of our own folks have gone to the funeral.

### 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. Check it out.

### NEW PRAYER REQUESTS

- Freida R. has with pneumonia

- Bonnie D. broken shoulder and, struggling; Suzanne as she cares for her mother
- Safe travel for all our travelers

### OUR PRAYER LIST...

- The Hill family at the loss of Haide
- Elizabeth H's family.
- Margret home and recovering
- Thanksgiving for...
  - Linda M knee surgery recovery
  - Norma B recovering, but at services Sunday!
- 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

- Sep 17, Hosea 1-6
- Sep 18, Hosea 7-12
- Sep 19, Joel all
- Sep 20, Amos 1-5
- Sep 21, Amos 6-9
- Sep 22, Obad./Jonah
  - Sep 23, Micah 1-3
  - Sep 24, Micah 4-7

**Dan. 12:2,3** “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”

*“It may seem God did not answer prayer, when the real issue may be that we did not like the answer.”*

(H.B. CHARLES JR)

# A word of Encouragement

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"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 3

In the last couple of bulletin articles we've been looking at the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit as Paul lays them out in Galatians 5:19-23. The first two installments were about the sins of improper sexual expression and paganism; the next few "works" also have something in common, sins that destroy relationships.

**Enmities**—The Greek word came from the same word as "enemy" and could also be translated quarrels, hostility, feud, or being "at odds". It is used in Rom. 8:7 in which Paul says that "the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God." In Eph. 2:14,16 it is used for the "us vs. them" mentality between the Jew and Gentile. So, when we're told that enmities are works of the flesh, it incorporates a wide range of sins like prejudice (racial, economic, nationalistic, or political), grudges, bitterness, and animosity. These things don't belong in the Christian's heart or life.

**Strife**—Enmity is the state of the heart towards others, but strife is the real-life conflict and fighting that comes out of that state of mind. Interestingly enough, although the Greeks viewed strife as destructive and undesirable, they considered it as one of the fundamental, essential, and indestructible forces of the world. And from a completely worldly point of view, they were probably right; none of mankind's attempts to banish war, violence, and strife have succeeded. Christianity is the only way that peace will ever get a chance.

**Jealousy and Envy**—Jealousy is a word that can be used in both a good and bad way, but here as we talk about the works of the flesh, we'll speak of its bad sense. Jealousy sees something that someone else has and seeks to get it for himself. Envy is actually found at the end of this portion of the list that deals with relationship sins, but it is put together with jealousy for a reason; because while similar, it is a step more evil than jealousy. Envy sees a good thing that someone else has, but only wishes to see it taken away. And it is jealousy and envy that have prompted many a feud, many a harsh word, and many an enmity.

**Outburst of Anger**—It is certainly true that one can be angry and not sin, but the anger that most of us have shown and experienced is this "outburst of anger" we see in this list, an emotional explosion, like when we said those awful words, made those regretted threats, and perhaps even laid hands on someone. To anyone who has reflected on their lives for even a moment, it is clear why it is sometimes called "getting mad" (we get out of control) and such wrath truly is a sin.

**Disputes**—This word is often translated "selfish ambition" in the NT. This word in the Greek language is one that emphasizes the sin of being more concerned with *who* is right than *what* is right. Putting self or party above the unity of the church, above truth, above Christ was the essence of the problems in Corinth—where there were tons of disputes. The center of the universe for the Christian needs to be Christ and His church, not "what's in it for me".

**Dissensions**—The word in Greek literally means to "stand apart". The mental picture of the word is when a brother takes a step back, folds his arms, and turns his back; division. While there is a proper time and place for division (1 Cor. 11:19), it is a grave matter to "stand apart" without a sound Christ-like reason.

**Factions**—The word here is the same one from which we get "heresy", a teaching or religious party that is different from apostolic, NT truth and the Lord's church. The modern word denomination is just a nicer way of expressing the very concept that Paul is condemning here in this work of the flesh.

I've often been in discussions with people who believe that the divisions of the religious world are due primarily to "interpretation". The truth (from the Bible itself) is simpler; division is less a matter of intellectual interpretive inability and more about our fleshly weaknesses.

Beloved, abandon these and other works of the flesh and watch the church swell in true unity.

Park Linscomb

