

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ

Understanding What the Will of the Lord Is

Last week, we concluded with a reference to **Matthew 25:31-46**. In this passage, Jesus refers to day of judgment, the separation of the sheep and the goats. The point should be very clear to every reader; God has given us a moral standard, and He fully expects us to live by it. There is no other reason for the inspired men to prepare for us the writings of the New Testament. If we do not live our lives by the inspired word of God, then we can fully expect to deal with the consequence of the 'goats' v.41. *"Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."* The motivation to do so is rather obvious; God *"has appointed a day in which he will judge the world by that man, Jesus Christ"* **Acts 17:31**. It is imperative that we are able to identify what God has intended for us to know, and precisely how we are to incorporate the *"instruction in righteousness"* **2 Timothy 3:16** that He has given us.

The 'religious community' outside of the Lord's Church, has been convoluted with the concepts of men, who fit precisely in the description of **Romans 16: 17-18**, *"mark them that cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine, for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."*

Many have virtually given up on worship and righteousness. It is difficult to identify righteous men and women by the way they live and the way they act. It takes more than belief, for the bible says, *"the devils also believe, and tremble."* **James 2:19** Devils tremble because they understand the power of God and the consequence of living outside the will of God! Allow me to be frank; God's plan is to consider *"all under sin, that the promise by FAITH in Jesus Christ, might be given to them that believe."* **Galatians 3:22**. God has devised a plan for salvation. His intent is to reward those that follow the plan and punish those who do not. Consider **Ephesians 5:15-17**, *"See that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* You can actually 'fill in the blank' for the topic; understanding the will of the Lord concerning: salvation, baptism, marriage. **Revelations 22:18-19** *"do not add to or take-from the things that are written in the Book", and we are not at liberty to apply personal preference.*

Doug Jones



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

Deacons:

- Reiven Holt
- Hugh Rubbish
- John Smetzer
- Burley Stinnett
- Fernando Zapata

Preacher:

- Park Linscomb

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 a visitor to our church, 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 .

THERE WILL AN ELDERS’ MEETING today at 4PM. They will meet in the back classroom of the education building.

YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY will be December 11, today, after worship services in the fellowship building. We will decorate and package the cake project we are doing for the Frisco Food Bank.

THE MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING is scheduled for Dec. 18, at 4PM in the fellowship hall. Elders, deacons, and preacher, please mark your calendar and be present.

THE LADIES’ ANNUAL GIFT EXCHANGE was a smashing success. Thanks to everyone who decorated, brought food, and brought the fun!

SUNDAY SERVICES, DEC. 25, 2022 — Since Christmas falls on Sunday this year, the elders have opted to alter our usual meeting time to 11AM for worship, no Bible classes. For those unable to make 11AM, there will be a service at 6PM for the Lord’s Supper.

LADIES’ ACTIVITIES The ladies’ Bible class will take a break for the holidays and resume Jan. 10 of next year.

CHILDREN’S HOMES COLLECTION will begin Nov. 30. Please see Linda S. for info and giving. The proceeds will be split between Christ’s Haven and Foster’s Home for Children.

OUR NEW OUTREACH PROGRAM We are collecting food and household items to contribute to various food banks in the area. There is a list of suggested items and collection tubs in the back of the church building by the water fountains. If you would rather contribute money, a money jar is on the table for your convenience. Please keep this outreach effort in your prayers.

GIVING OPTIONS — please be aware that there are now several ways to contribute. The collection plate will continue to be passed, but we also have online options at our website, rhcoc.org.

PRAYER LISTS...

Prayers needed

- Rosa Z illness
- Emma R. as a new Christian
- For Brooke and Logan Campbell in dealing with their mother’s illness
- Dianna C.’s undergoing chemo (to finish in March) so, prayers are still urged.
- Hugh R.’s sister Andrea Kerley, whose surgery was unsuccessful and now must undergo chemo.
- Sue Carter: please pray for more health improvement
- Chuck T. cancer treatments

Remember these often:

- Isela H.’s Jeff Barnett with stage 4 brain 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 teenage friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon
- Cheryl F.
- Ann S.

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Dec 11, 1 Thess all
- Dec 12, 2 Thess all
- Dec 13, 1 Timothy 1-3
- Dec 14, 1 Timothy 4-6
- Dec 15, 2 Timothy all
- Dec 16, Titus/Philemon all
- Dec 17, Hebrews 1-4
- Dec 18, Hebrews 5-8

*“Pray without ceasing.”
(1 Thess. 5:17)*

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.

The Evil Are Still Troubled by Him — Herod

We're looking at the stories usually associated with Christmas in these weeks approaching the holiday. Last week we studied the story of the magi in Matthew 2:1-18, and we concluded that wise men always seek Jesus. This week we'll take a look at the other side of the coin in this story, Herod and the religious leaders of Jerusalem.

When the magi from the east came to Jerusalem, Israel's capital, seeking the One born King of the Jews, it threw things into quite an uproar in both the palace and the Temple — "he [Herod] was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." Herod's wife wasn't pregnant, so this news meant only one thing to Herod, someone was being born who would take Herod's throne from him and his family! Quickly Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes to ask what the Scriptures said about the birthplace of the "King of the Jews" — to answer the magi's question, of course. King Herod then called the magi aside privately, and after finding out the exact time of the appearance of the star that they followed, he told them, "Go search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him." After the magi found Jesus, however, they were warned by God to return a different way. When king Herod realized that his magi "spies" had not returned, he quickly composed plan B — kill all the male children two years old and younger. He was too late to kill the King of the Jews, however; God had warned Joseph of the danger in a dream, and the whole family had escaped to Egypt.

What was so troubling to Herod that he took such extreme action? Every king realizes that there's only one exit for himself or his family — death. And Herod was not a legitimate king — he was an outsider (Idumean by nationality, not Jewish) who had been appointed by the Romans. Herod knew that a legitimate King of the Jews was a significant threat, and he was keen on eliminating threats. In many regards Herod is much like the sinful world today, still wanting to illegitimately sit on the throne of their lives, to never yield sovereignty of their lives over to the legitimate

King, the Creator — and realizing that yielding the throne will mean death (e.g., Luke 17:33 "Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it" and Romans 6:1-6). Sinful men, who seek to cling to the throne of their hearts, are still troubled by and resentful of Jesus.

But it wasn't just Herod who was troubled, the chief priests and religious leaders were, too. You'd have expected the religious leaders to have saddled up and followed the magi to Bethlehem, wouldn't you? They should have been the first to worship and submit to Jesus; yet they were also "troubled". You see, a change in administration, in the status quo, would be unprofitable and humbling and possibly fatal to them, too. They needed to protect their interests first — "Who cares about God's interests?" Those who should have cared, did not. In fact, it is this group (although there were different individuals involved) who called for Jesus' death on the cross 31 years later! Even then, they failed — He rose again!

Neither the "Herods" nor the "chief priests" of this world will ever be successful in ridding the world of Jesus or His church. They hate Him; they are troubled by Him; and will deny Him, discredit Him, mock Him, marginalize Him, and still try to kill Him in attacks on His church — sometimes including actual martyrdom of God's people — but all to no avail. Jesus authoritatively told us, (Matthew 16:18) "...upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." Later, in Revelation 12, we find a summary of the grand scope of spiritual history in colorful symbols, in which Satan (the dragon) tries again and again to kill and thwart the coming of the Messiah (the male child) and God's people (the woman), but fails over and over through God's power and providence — and is ultimately thrown (along with the beast and the false prophet) into Hell eternally (Rev. 20:10).

So — wise men still seek Him; sinful men are still troubled by Him. Are you among those who seek Him or those who are troubled by Him?

Park Linscomb

FAMILY CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Suzanne D. ■ 12:00 AM Youth Holiday Party ■ 9:00 AM Bible classes ■ 10:00 AM Worship ■ 4:00 PM Elders' meeting ■ 6:00 PM Worship			■ 7:00 PM Wed. Bible class	Lavonia C.		

SERVICE IN WORSHIP

Dec 11	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>	Burley S	Burley S
<i>Announcements</i>	John S	John S
<i>Songleading</i>	Doug J	Scott W
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	Yaw F.	John S
<i>Communion</i>	John S	Reiven H
<i>and Servers</i>		
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Jim B	Jim B

Dec. 14	
<i>Songleading</i>	Charles H

Dec 18	AM	PM
<i>Greeter</i>	Burley S	Burley S
<i>Announcements</i>	Jim B	Jim B
<i>Songleading</i>	Scott W	Doug J
<i>Opening Prayer</i>	John S	Reiven H
<i>Communion</i>	Yaw F	Scott W
<i>and Servers</i>		
<i>Closing Prayer</i>	Charles H	Charles H

Dec. 21	
<i>Songleading</i>	Jim B.

Shortcuts to good info...

To our website...



A quick teaching on salvation...



Sermon Notes...
