

THE ROCK HILL HERALD

Bulletin of the Rock Hill church of Christ



The Rock Hill church of Christ

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Frisco TX 75035

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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"*

Wherefore, God also gave them up

It is no surprise that mortal man cannot fully comprehend or appreciate what God identified as the Church. **Jeremiah 10:23** tells us clearly, "it is not in man that walketh to direct his (own) steps." It is difficult enough to capture the meaning of a 'foreign language' as many would declare, because of words we no longer use to communicate. Can we not understand; this is part of the mystery? When Jesus first began to speak of the Kingdom to come, he immediately pointed out in **Matthew 13** the people had eyes and ears, but they could not see nor hear "neither do they understand". Jesus had already said, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" **Matthew 6:33** and that the way unto heaven was through a "Strait gate that only few would find" **Matthew 7:13**. The mystery of God's Plan was then and continues to be, a mystery to those who refuse to "diligently seek Him" **Hebrews 11:6**.

It is evident that we must look back to the original intent of God's Plan and review the Old Testament by way of the prophecies that were "written in a tablet for the time to come for ever and ever" **Isaiah 30:8**. Ultimately, God would reveal the Plan in **John 1:1** "in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God". In order to deliver the Plan effectively and with proper authority, **John 1:14** tells us, "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...as the only begotten of the Father". He further explains in **John 12:48**, "the Word of Jesus (the only begotten) would judge us in the last day." The method by which the Word would be delivered was also mysterious. The birth of Jesus "by the Holy Ghost" as the "Son of God" **Luke 1:26-38**. Not only this, but the announcement of a predecessor to "make ready the people prepared for the Lord" **Luke 1:17**.

The Plan of God to deliver the Church was not only mysterious but it was also meticulous. Every detail was predicted and preserved. It was "written for our learning" **Romans 15:4** "that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." The scriptures were provided as well and serve a distinct purpose as "Instruction in righteousness" **II Timothy 3:16** with the intent that we "study to show ourselves approved unto God...rightly dividing the Word of Truth" **II Timothy 2:15**. To that end...**Romans 1:18-23** "for the invisible things of Him are clearly seen...even His eternal power and Godhead...so they are without excuse...professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...wherefore, God also gave them up..."

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 .

A SPRING SINGING WORKSHOP

April 16-19, Ken Dawdy will be here for a singing workshop. Ken will teach on worship in song on Sunday and then will hold workshops each evening Monday through Wednesday.



Ken Dawdy

CLEVE AND MELINDA

STAFFORD It was great to have the Staffords with us this last weekend. They are now back in snowy New England as they work with the church in Pittsfield MA. Please continue to pray for them and their work.



The Staffords

SPEAKING OF THE PITTSFIELD MA CHURCH— Trudi R. continues to collect funds for an ongoing monthly benevolence program for the Pittsfield church. The Pittsfield church has sent a thank you card, and if you'd like to see what has been sent to Pittsfield, there's a note on the bulletin board.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- A youth event will be at “Pump It Up” (Frisco), March 25, 12:15, arrive a little early. Pizza, drinks, and dessert served. Address info in the back. All kids must be accompanied by an adult.
- A Youth Sleepover on May 5th in the Fellowship Building. All ages are invited.

LADIES' SPRING FLING — Saturday April 22nd at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall.

ZEKE RODRIGUEZ has a new address...Alexis Estates Gracious Retirement Living, 680 N Waters Road, #302, Allen TX 75013

FREIDA IS AT HOME as of Thursday morning. She is resting but is weak and a little nervous. Pray that the medications will work for her and she will be able to get her strength back.

PRAYER LISTS...

- Freda Rose was hospitalized this past weekend, but appears to be doing better. Pray for a complete recovery.
- Nancy J relative Tom Kissinger: a fall & Parkinson
- John B. is in need of further vein surgery on his left leg
- Julia's friend Wendy with breast cancer
- Dianna Conkling
- Hugh R.'s sister Andrea
- Sue Carter
- Chuck T. cancer treatments
- Isela H.'s friend Jeff, cancer.

Every word of God
proves true. (Proverbs
30:5)

- 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 friend Isabella with a heart lesion
- Travis Y. feeding tube
- Dianna C.
- Ken C.
- Mary H. and daughter Sharon

READ-THE-BIBLE-IN-A-YEAR

- Mar 19, Judges 1-3
- Mar 20, Judges 4-6
- Mar 21, Judges 7-8
- Mar 22, Judges 9-10
- Mar 23, Judges 11-13
- Mar 24, Judges 14-16
- Mar 25, Judges 17-19
- Mar 26, Judges 20-21

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.

Devotion to God, Part 2

Last week we gave thought to spiritual attention deficit disorder — the fact that we need to learn a greater spiritual devotion to the Lord. But we also recognized that the problem with devotion is how easy it is to be distracted.



and Wednesdays (a day often set aside for church Bible study)? What kinds of good deeds would they be involved in?"

Now, find room for the family. Now school or work. Now entertainment or relaxation.

We each have obligation to family, work, and school — and, of course, we like to be entertained (a lot). Jesus recognized the distraction problem in Matthew 13's parable of the sower. Some seed, you'll remember, fell among the thorns and weeds and after initially germinating, was eventually choked out. Jesus interpreted this in Luke 8:14 "The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity." Similarly, Paul expressed fear for the church in Corinth: 2 Corinthians 11:3 "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ." He was worried that these Christians would be seduced from simple and pure devotion to the Lord.

One might find oneself worrying that such undistracted devotion to the Lord would result in our becoming part of a monastery. But lest your fears lead you astray, let me point out that Jesus **warns** us about the dangers, but **doesn't** demand we drop them, unless they've become our gods, unless they become what runs our lives. In most cases, we just need to **prioritize** them properly.

So, how do we juggle all these obligations and desires while "securing undistracted devotion" to Christ? Have you ever packed a trunk or a box? The trick to getting a lot into the box or trunk is to put the big things (or most important things) in first. Then you put the small (or less important) things in around the big ones. Application to life: determine what needs to go in first, the Lord's things — things that answer the very important questions: "What do devoted Christians do? How often do they sit down to read and think about the Bible per week? How often do they take time to pray? What do they do with their Sundays

and Wednesdays (a day often set aside for church Bible study)? What kinds of good deeds would they be involved in?"

Now, find room for the family. Now school or work. Now entertainment or relaxation.

So clear out the box of your life. Put spiritual things in first, and then put in the rest of it highest priority to lowest. Yes, that may mean that something will get axed, but that's OK because Jesus is worth it. He's worth all your devotion. He's worth all your sacrifice — including things you may have had to cut out. He's worth all your efforts to juggle and arrange. After all, Christ gave the full measure of devotion to you and me.

What will **you** do to secure undistracted devotion to Jesus?

Now, you may not be a Christian and you may be thinking that all this stuff sounds pretty stringent — a burden you may not be too keen on bearing. May I explain to you that Christian devotion is really no burden. Jesus, being by nature God, decided to lower Himself and live as a man. He put up with all the temptations and diseases and distractions and nonsense that we all have to put up with yet without sinning even one time. He allowed Himself, deliberately, to be captured by His enemies, unfairly accused, tried, and be executed in the most humiliating and painful way known to man — so we could be forgiven of our sin. Then He arose from the dead to sit at the right hand of the Father as King over His Kingdom — interceding for us regarding sin, regarding prayer, and everything that we need.

His love — demonstrated so long ago and being demonstrated even today, so deep and wide and amazing — has captivated the hearts of every Christian today. So, no, "undistracted devotion" is no burden. And if you're ready to give your heart to Him, giving the devotion and obedience that He deserves, we encourage you to obey Him in baptism today.

Park Linscomb

