

THE BULLETIN

THIS WEEK:

Sunday:

Bible Study & Worship
4th Sunday Fellowship

Monday:

Fl. School of Preaching Class

Wednesday:

Bible Study

Friday:

Teen Movie Night

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 2nd –
Coffee with Christians
February 6th –
Teen Dinner
February 8th –
Ladies Night Out
February 12th –
Pre-teen Devotional
February 25th – 27th
Yes Weekend

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE:

Month of January

Announcements:

Luther Honey

Singing:

a.m. – Mark Nortz
p.m. – John L.
Wed. – Luther Honey

Prayer:

Tom Mikell

Bible Reading:

Preaching:

Doug Frazier

Lord's Supper:

Harry Collins
Cliff Jones
Tim Stanley
Ben Stokes

Prepare communion

Patty Honey

4th Sunday Fellowship:

January

Donna Lydon
Rhonda Howe
Tawny Collins
Angie Stokes

The Lord Is My Rock

By Jason Jackson

We are comforted by the words, “The Lord is my shepherd,” but what about the thought, “The Lord is my rock”?

The word “rock” is used about twenty-four times in the book of Psalms with reference to God. Here is an example.

“Jehovah is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; My God, my rock, in whom I will take refuge; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower” (Ps. 18:2).

We can appreciate the use of “rock” better when we understand its Old Testament background.

During the wilderness wandering, God caused water to flow from a rock. Moses reflected on this miraculous event with Israel on the shores of the Jordan as they prepared to enter Canaan.

“God led thee through the great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents and scorpions, and thirsty ground where was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint” (Deut. 8:15).

Later, Moses was literally between a rock and a hard place in the wilderness — and for his own good. God hid him in the “cleft of the rock” and covered him with His hand for protection (Ex. 33:22).

With these background experiences, Moses was the first in Scripture to use the word “rock” in a figurative sense in connection with God.

“The Rock, his work is perfect; For all his ways are justice” (Deut. 32:4)

De 32:13 He made him ride on the high places of the earth, And he did eat the increase of the field; And he made him to suck honey out of the rock, And oil out of the flinty rock.

De 32:15 But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: Thou art waxed fat, thou art grown thick, thou art become sleek; Then he forsook God who made him, And lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

De 32:18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, And hast forgotten God that gave thee birth.

De 32:30-31 How should one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Except their Rock had sold them, And Jehovah had delivered them up? For their rock is not as our Rock, Even our enemies themselves being judges.37).

De 32:37 And he will say, Where are their gods, The rock in which they took refuge;

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Others in Israel would speak of God in the same figurative way. Hannah prayed,

“There is none holy as Jehovah; For there is none besides thee, Neither is there any rock like our God” (1 Sam. 2:2).

David praised God as the Rock in his “royal thanksgiving song” and in his “last song” (2 Sam. 22:2, 3)

2 Sam. 22:32 For who is God, save Jehovah? And who is a rock, save our God?

2 Sam 22:47 Jehovah liveth; And blessed be my rock; And exalted be God, the rock of my salvation,

2 Sam 23:3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spake to me: One that ruleth over men righteously, That ruleth in the fear of God,

It is no wonder that Psalms — a poetic book — employs this meaningful metaphor.

This term reminds us that God is the source of our physical blessings. As Israel was dramatically shown in the wilderness, God provides for our needs. Relying on the goodness and providence of God, Jesus teaches us to pray,

“Give us this day our daily bread” (Mt. 6:11).

As the rock in the wilderness was a miraculous source of water — and therefore life — God symbolized Israel’s miraculous establishment. He raised them up by His mighty power to fulfill a role or service in bringing His son into the world. Today, God is the source of the church, the spiritual Israel, and He is the fountain of our spiritual vitality

Galatians 6:16 And as many as shall walk by this rule, peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

2 Samuel 23:3 The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spake to me: One that ruleth over men righteously, That ruleth in the fear of God,

Just as the nation of Israel had a rich miraculous heritage, so does the church. The miracles of Christ, the resurrection, the signs of the apostles, and the spiritual gifts given to first-century Christians provide that heritage. We understand, however, that the age of miracles has ceased.

1Co 13:6-8 Love.....rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall be done away; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall be done away.

The word “rock” is equated with the idea of strength. Rock was used to build walls, fortresses, and towers in Bible times. God is our source of strength in times of distress and danger.

God is also our refuge. Like Moses, we can hide in the cleft of “the Rock.” God will care for us.

“Rock” also typifies something about the nature of God. He is solid as a rock. He is unchangeable in nature — immutable. Moses had this in mind when he spoke of God’s ways and justice.

Det 32:4 The Rock, his work is perfect; For all his ways are justice: A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, Just and right is he.

The “rock” symbolism continues in the New Testament with reference to Christ. He is the foundation, the chief-corner stone. He is the rock of offense to those who reject Him, but the spiritual rock for those who obey Him .

Eph 2:19-20 So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone;

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Rom 9:33 even as it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence: And he that believeth on him shall not be put to shame.

1Peter 2:8 and, A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence; for they stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

1Corinthians 10:4 and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of a spiritual rock that followed them: and the rock was Christ.

And so we sing, "Rock of Ages." Let us pray, "Lord, you are our rock. Let us hide ourselves in thee."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REQUEST: The elders have received a request from the Florida School of Preaching. Due to the financial difficulties that many are having at this time, the school is also having financial difficulties also. The elders have decided to increase our support of the school. We will be increasing our support to \$300.00 a month. The school has an extension class here at Alachua and there are several who are able to be a part of it and find it very rewarding. Please help us support this work in your prayers and financially.

4th SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP IS THIS TODAY

SICK AND/OR INJURED:

- Terry Dickerson, the nephew of Ruth Gufford is in the VA hospital. Ruth has asked us to remember him in our prayers.
- Continue to remember Betty Hitchcock, Ann Ewing, Mike Elledge, Shirley Kirby, Sherrelle Kendrick, Carolyn Canady (Rhonda's Mom), Jean Gause, James Harrison, Rhonda Howe, Cristy Butts (cousin of Randy Howe), Edward Brown (cancer building at Shands).

YES WEEKEND: It is time to start planning our annual YES weekend trip to Valdosta. YES is scheduled for February 25th-27th. There is a sign up sheet posted in the back for those who are interested in attending. The Theme is "IT IS TIME..... TO OBEY, TO LOVE, TO CHECK ATTITUDES, TO SERVE, TO WORSHIP, TO CHOOSE." Cost is \$30 per person (includes 2 nights' hotel, Sat. lunch and dinner) T-shirt is by *pre-order only*, for additional \$10. Money for food – Friday dinner (fast food); Saturday and Sunday breakfast (fast food or the hotel we stay at may offer a continental breakfast) and Sunday lunch. Deadline for payment is **Sunday, 2/6**. Payment can be given to Doug or Jessica. Please see Jessica if you have any questions regarding the trip.

TEEN MOVIE/GAME NIGHT: The teens will be having a get together on Friday January 28th at the Frazier's house at 6:30. Please bring your favorite snack/food and a 2 liter drink. If you have a favorite game or movie please bring it.

CAMPING: See Donna about the annual camping trip that our young people take every year. We need to make reservations early in the year because camp sites will book quickly after the first of the year.

TO OUR VISITORS

It is our sincere desire to help all men and women understand what God's will is for their life. Here at the Alachua Church of Christ, we stand ready and willing to help you with any needs you may have. Here are just a few of the services we offer: Marriage Counseling, Family Counseling and Addiction Counseling, free audiotapes of any lesson and In-home Bible Study. Feel free to make your request know. Ask any member of the congregation.

**Alachua
Church of Christ**
14505 NW 145th Ave.
Alachua, FL 32615

Phone:
(386) 462-3326

E-mail:
alachuachurchofchrist
@windstream.net

Elders:
Ray Cauthen
Luther Honey

Deacons:
Doug Frazier
Mark Nortz
Dwight Stokes

Minister:
Doug Frazier

Meeting Times:
Sunday Morning
Bible Study: 9:30
Worship: 10:30

Sunday Evening
Worship: 5:30

Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30

From Doug's Desk

When we think about heroes who do we think of? For many it is a pro-athlete, a singer or even a parent. But many of us would never consider the greatest hero to ever live, Jesus Christ. Jesus is a true hero. Just think about what he did for humanity. He paid the price for each and every one of us. Mark 10:45, *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* How many people do you know would take the place of another and endure the punishment that he did even though he did not deserve the punishment?

The Lord went to the cross and laid down His life so that man could have eternal life. Without Jesus there would be no hope. The Lord became a sacrifice for us. Jesus was the greatest sacrifice that could be given to humanity, the perfect sacrifice. That is the most heroic thing that anyone could ever do for us. We should be grateful for a hero like Jesus. So let us be thankful for Jesus and what he has done for us.

Sunday Morning Lesson – Son of Encouragement

1. The name Barnabas means _____ of _____.
2. In Acts 4 we see an emergency arising and Barnabas and others sold their _____ to supply for those who were in distress.
3. The disciples in Jerusalem didn't believe that _____ was a disciple of Christ.
4. Barnabas took Paul and introduced him to the apostles and declared to the apostles that he had seen the Lord and that he _____ in the name of Jesus in Damascus.
5. Barnabas was sent to the church at _____ to encourage them to remain faithful.
6. Encouragement is a duty not only for the _____, the _____, or the _____ but for every member of the Lord's body.
7. We need to make it our mission to _____ and _____ each other.
8. Paul encourages us to encourage those who are _____ and _____.
9. The fainthearted are those who are easily _____.
10. We need to help those members who are _____ and _____ spiritual strength.

We're on the Web!
alachuachurchofchrist.org