

The Ripley Reminder



RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

1300 HALL DRIVE-RIPLEY, MS 38663

PHONE:662-837-9011

WEBSITE: www.rmschurchofchrist.com

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study9:30 AM

Sunday Morning 10:20 AM

Sunday Evening5:00 PM

Wednesday Evening 7:00 PM

MINISTERS

Dr. Donnie DeBord
Cody Hardin

ELDERS

David Cook
Michael Harrison
Mark Martindale

DEACONS

Ronald Chapman
Rob Elliott
Shane Green
David Hudson
Mike Hurst
Sonny Meeks
Brad Pounders
Nathan Robertson
Kenny Schmitz
Justin Thompson
Benny Wallis
Bruce Wallis
James Wilburn

BULLETIN

Announcements..... 662-837-9011

E-mail.....rmschurchofchrist@gmail.com

LET'S TAKE AS MINUTE. . .

“TO EVERYONE WHO WORKS AND LABORS WITH US”

“You know the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; that you also commit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us.” (1 Cor. 16:15-16)

The close of several of Paul’s writings have a greeting, such as the passage above. He commended the household of Stephanas for two things: they were the first converts in Achaia, and they devoted themselves to the service of the saints. This a beautiful image – a whole household devoted to the Lord and serving, or working, in the church! When both husband and wife are devoted to the Lord, most often the children follow their parent’s example.

Paul wrote that they “devoted” themselves to the service of the saints. The Greek word translated “devoted” carries the idea that they “appointed themselves” to the work of helping fellow Christians. No one urged them to do it. No one forced them into the work. They wanted to do it! The work they chose was called, “the service of the saints.” They were concerned about the physical and spiritual welfare of their fellow Christians. This is a needed work of the Lord’s church in our day!

Paul then admonished others to follow this example! Therefore, we should submit (join in and help) others. Look at the words, “join in.” They speak of unity, of combined effort, of closeness and love!

Let us strive to make our congregation like that of the household of Stephanas. Let us all “serve the saints” by joining in the work of the church and laboring for the Lord!

My Minute’s Up!

James A. Horton

LET'S TAKE A MINUTE. . .

GOING “OFF THE RAILS”

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift. . .and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame!” (Heb. 6:4-6)

The talk in the recent news was about a potential rail strike which could cripple our nation's economy! The phrase, “OFF THE RAILS” has taken on a fresh new meaning! To ‘go off the rails’ refers to a train accident which results in the destruction of train engines and rail cars as well as the loss of lives. There have been many such tragedies in our country's history!

One of the most notable is that of the wreck of the Illinois Central Railroad in Vaughan, MS on April 30, 1900 in which Casey Jones met his death! His real name was John Luther Jones from Cayce, KY. He died when his train ran into another train sitting idle on the tracks at the Vaughan station. Jones' train slammed into the idle train at a high rate of speed!

But what does “Going off the rails” mean from a spiritual perspective? The phrase is applicable to one who, by his unfaithful choices and actions fails to abide true to the teachings of Christ, and the commitment he once made to obey, and be faithful to the Lord the rest of his life! Thus, to “Go Off the Rails” means to go astray; to trespass, to wander from, to fall from grace and to do wrong while living a life of unfaithfulness, yet still calling himself a Christian!

From the Old Testament comes an example of the principle of “Going Off the Rails.” From 2 Chronicles 25:2 comes the image of Amaziah who reigned in Judah, It was said of him, “He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart.” In other words, Amaziah appeared to serve God faithfully but, as one translation described his lack of deep commitment as: “His heart was not in it!”

Has your spiritual life gone “Off the rails” or has it even wrecked, as in the example of Casey Jones? God has provided for repentance and a plea for forgiveness, as David prayed in Ps. 51:9-12, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. . .restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation.” Make the needed repairs, get back on the track and proceed to your destination of eternal life in the presence of your loving God of mercy and grace!

My minute's up!

James A. Horton

LET'S TAKE A MINUTE. . .

THE JOY OF WORSHIP

“Make a joyful shout to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.” (Ps. 100:1 & 2)

The Psalms are filled with expressions of joy concerning worship. The act of worship is even pictured as one of the high points of David's life! He looked forward to being in the spiritual presence of God. Listen to his beautiful statements in the 100th Psalm.

I recently asked myself when I have ever shouted for joy to the Lord. Probably all of us, at some time, have sung loudly in a song service. I am not suggesting that our singing in church should be loud and boisterous, but I am inquiring about the attitude we ought to have when we come to the house of the Lord to engage in the worship of our Holy God! Do we ever come with a heart that is overflowing with joy toward our Lord so that we feel like shouting?

Would you agree that we probably should give more attention to our attitude when we gather for worship? Too much hurrying and being late do nothing to put us in the right frame of mind to commune with the God of the Universe and the King of Kings!

The very Greek word for 'worship' (PROSKUNEO) has the idea of "kissing toward the object we reverence." We stand in awe of God and we love Him. It is a serious occasion to be with our Creator and it demands awe and reverence.

David said, "Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before His presence with singing." I have attended worship services in which 10-12 songs were sung, in addition to four or five prayers before the sermon. Brethren had no desire to "get in and out" of their worship! It's difficult to muster much "gladness" and "joyfulness" with this spirit and low expectation.

Worship should be the high point of our week! It can be a meaningful and strengthening experience. It depends upon our thoughts and attitudes toward God and Jesus at the moment. We can control that. God alone knows when we truly worship with joy and gladness.

My Minute's up!

James A. Horton

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

- Billy Hue McBryde, father of Laura Green, is doing well and recovering from surgery. They are waiting to hear from pathology reports .

Please keep these in your thoughts and prayers:

Peggy Wallis, Johnie Jumper, April & Olivia Pounders, James Nunnally, Pattie Box, Theo Smith, Everette Hurt, Jr., Brenda Koon, Carol Smith, Ali Rae Barkley, Debbie McCoy, Trey Smith, Jacob Johnston, Austin Wentz, Lori Chapman, Jan Rooker, Lenox Kennamore, James Allen Johnston, Jan Rooker, Billy Hue McBryde, Sam Vaughn, Tommy Simpson, Phil Young,

Rest Haven: Johnnie Stroupe Carpenter-204
Diversicare: Terri Barkley C-9, Cindy Holly D-8

NEWS & NOTES

- We will have our evening service this Sunday, February 5, at 3:00. There will be a reception honoring Bro. Malcolm George on Sunday, February 5 at 5:30 in Henderson, TN. This change will allow anyone from the congregation that would like, to attend.
- There will be a seminar titled “Beyond the Valley of Death” at Theo church of Christ. Dates are February 4th from 9:00 to 2:00 and February 5th from 9:00 to 12:00. Let Caleb James know if you plan to attend.
- Men’s Breakfast is February 5, 2023 at 8:00. Please sign-up.
- All ladies of the congregation are invited to a baby shower honoring Kat Mann on February 26 from 1:30-3:00. It is a girl, Olive Michael.
- There is a new Ladies Bible class meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10:00.
- Leslie Caviness and Kat Mann will be in the nursery during services.

Worship Service February 5, 2023

Song Leader	Dan Shapple
Opening Prayer AM	Kenny Schmitz
Read Scripture	Sam Green
Lord’ Supper AM	David Cook
Closing Prayer AM	David Hudson
Opening Prayer PM	Rob Elliott
Lord’s Supper PM	Robert Elliott
Closing Prayer PM	James Wilburn
Ushers.....	Charles Ellis & Edward Willingham
Lock Doors.....	Benny Wallis