

# The Ripley Reminder



## RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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LET'S TAKE A MINUTE:

### WHAT IS GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE?

*"But as for you, you thought evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save many people alive." (Genesis 50:20)*

One of the valuable lessons we may learn from the story of the life of Joseph is that of waiting on God.

Joseph's jealous brothers sold him into slavery before going to their father and lying to him about Joseph's disappearance. Years later, famine struck the land and Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain. God had a surprise waiting for them! Joseph had not only survived his brother's efforts to get rid of him, but they discovered that he had become second in command to Pharaoh as manager of Egypt's food supply.

God never promised that bad situations will have a quick ending. He allows some difficulties to test our faith and patience along the way. What he promises is good results! Sometimes these results may also take us through the frightening valley of personal reflection as God changes us from the inside out. He often does this to prepare us for greater service.

What good thing is God doing in your life right now? Maybe the answer to the question is clear. Chances are, though, it is still a mystery! In time you will understand His plan and you, and you will be thankful that you continued to love the Lord and trust him with your future.

My minute's up!

James A. Horton

### Service Times

Sunday Bible Study..... 9:30 AM

Sunday Morning ..... 10:20 AM

Sunday Evening ..... 5:00 PM

Wednesday Evening..... 7:00 PM

### MINISTERS

Dr. Donnie DeBord  
Cole Chapman  
Tucker Shappley

### 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

### BULLETIN

Announcements ..... 662-837-9011

E-mail.....[rmschurchofchrist@gmail.com](mailto:rmschurchofchrist@gmail.com)

## Fellowship: Is It Worth It?

Is it worth working in the heat for \$10, \$100, or \$1000? Christians, we are called to consider an even greater value: fellowship with God and His people. 1 John 1:3 teaches that we have "fellowship with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ." But what does this truly mean to us? Is there any value there?

Consider the early Christians who first received John's letter. They faced persecution and hardship for their faith, yet they remained steadfast in their communion with God and each other. Remember how this fellowship was made possible. Sin had separated us from God. We were "alienated from the life of God" (Eph 2:12). But through Christ's sacrifice, we now have "boldness and access with confidence to God" (Eph 3:12). This precious gift came at an immeasurable cost – the blood of God's own Son (Acts 20:28). Surely, such a priceless gift deserves our wholehearted engagement.

Now, examine your life. Is fellowship with God worth the work? Do you glorify God with our attitudes, striving to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5)? Do you prioritize gathering with fellow believers (Hebrews 10:25)? Does your church count on you?

God calls us to be partners with Him and His church (Phil 1:5). This partnership isn't just about attending services – it's about fully engaging in the life of the church community. When we invest our time, talents, and resources in our local church, we are not just supporting an organization; we are nurturing our fellowship with God and His people. When we fully participate in church life, we experience the richness of true fellowship that God intends for us. We become part of something greater than ourselves – a living, breathing community of faith that reflects God's love to the world.

So, is it worth it? Yes! The rewards of true fellowship – both now and in eternity – far outweigh any temporary discomfort or sacrifice. This week, challenge yourself to deepen your engagement with your local church. Attend that midweek service, volunteer for that outreach event, or reach out to support a fellow believer. As you do, you'll discover the immeasurable worth of genuine fellowship with God and His people.

LET'S TAKE A MINUTE:

## **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

*“The LORD has heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer.” (Ps. 6:9)*

Several years ago, I had occasion to attend the funeral of a Catholic friend in Fort Worth. While leading the assembled congregation in prayer, the leader said, “Lord, in your mercy,” and the audience would respond by citing, “Hear our prayer!”

After repeating the phrase in a lengthy prayer which repeated the phrases, a young boy behind us finally shouted out, “Hear our prayer!” The little fellow expressed what a lot of us were feeling that afternoon.

As Christians, we believe that God hears us when we pray, not because we deserve to be heard but because God opened the way to talk directly to our Heavenly Father. We may often make our requests quietly, but there are times when we cannot help but cry out to Him in anguish and pain!

In the sixth Psalm, we can almost hear David’s sobs as he pleaded with God for mercy, help and healing. Even though David faced difficult people and overwhelming circumstances, he affirmed his faith in God: “The LORD has heard the voice of my weeping. The LORD has heard my supplication. The Lord will receive my prayer,” (vs. 8-9)

Today, in the mysterious blend of confidence and crying out, we can bring anything, and everything, to our loving God, saying, “Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.”

My minute’s up!

James A. Horton

### **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- Mike Bennett is recovering from knee surgery . Pray for aa speedy recovery.
- Ann Akins is home recovering from treatments. Please pray for her at this time.

### **Please keep these in your thoughts and prayers:**

Ann Akins, Peggy Wallis, Johnnie Jumper, James Nunnally, Lindsay Garrison,  
Pattie Box, Brenda Koon, Carol Smith, Ali Rae Barkley, Cora Chills, Austin Wentz,  
Lori Chapman, Jan Rooker, Trey Smith, Lenox Kennamore, Clem Edge, Don Smith,  
Billy Hugh McBryde, Carol Porterfield,  
Phil Young, Heather McSwain, Harriet Willis  
**Diversicare:** Terri Barkley C-9, Cindy Holly D-8

### **NEWS & NOTES**

- Evie DeBord was baptized last Sunday morning. We want to welcome her to our church family and be an encouragement to her as her decision is to us.
- This Sunday, June 30, we will have Church-Eat-Church. A fellowship meal will follow our morning service. The young men will conduct the evening worship service at 1:00. Let's all make every effort to support and encourage our youth.-
- Thank you to everyone who had a part in making our 2024 VBS a success.
- There will be a re-print of the Lads-To-Leaders shirts. If you would like to order one, see Cole Chapman or Tucker Shappley.
- The 2nd annual Back-to-School Bash will be July 20th, sponsored by RYG. If you would like to help; monetary contributions can be given to Tucker Shappley or Cole Chapman to purchase needed school supplies for children .
- Danville Church of Christ will have their 22nd Annual Gospel Singing June 28th from 7:00-8:30 PM. They are located in Biggersville. Directions are on the flyer in the foyer.
- Regina Wallis, Emily, Virginia, and Jewel Raines will be nursery attendants this Sunday.

#### **Worship Service June 30, 2024**

Welcome.....	Mark Martindale
Song Leader .....	Michael Harrison
Opening Prayer AM.....	Justin Thompson
Read Scripture.....	Hayden Kuhl
Lord' Supper AM.....	Brad Pounders
Assisting at the Lord's Table AM.....	Shane Green, Robert Elliott, Mike Hudson, Ronald Chapman, Clay Crawford, Dean Caviness
Closing Prayer AM .....	James Horton
Opening Prayer PM.....	Young Men
Lord's Supper PM.....	Young Men
Closing Prayer PM.....	Young Men