

# *The Ripley Reminder*



## **RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**1300 HALL DRIVE-RIPLEY, MS 38663**

**PHONE:662-837-9011**

**WEBSITE: [www.rmschurchofchrist.com](http://www.rmschurchofchrist.com)**

### **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](mailto:rmschurchofchrist@gmail.com)**

*The unfailing love of the Lord never ends.*

*Lamentations 3:22*

Every day of our life - -indeed every moment of your life - -you are embraced by God. He is always with you and His love for you is deeper and more profound than you can imagine. When you become a child of His, through obedience, You are changed. God's love causes you to feel differently about yourself, your neighbors and your world. When you open yourself to His love you are blessed beyond comprehension. Here on earth we are preciousely loved by God that we cannot truly comprehend, nor even fully describe the way He loves because His love is not on the human level. Human love ends, God's love is forever, unfailing, unending, eternal. This is just ONE of His great promises, and what a great and comforting promise it is! Smile as you wrap yourself in His love today.



## Draw Near To God Carefully

“But for me, it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works” (Ps 73:28).

The Psalmist said, “It is good to be near God,” but God’s presence can also be a scary reality. God’s greatness is so overwhelming that even the glory surrounding him is described as “unapproachable light” (1 Tim 6:16). God warned, “Man shall not see me and live” (Exod 33:20). In the OT people expected to die when they had been in God’s presence (Gen 32:30; Judg 6:22–23; 13:22; Isa 6:5). Divine holiness forms an inherent separation between God and his creatures. God’s holiness is also dangerous. To trespass God’s holiness results in desecration, which must be punished (Lev 7:19–21; 22:2). Numbers 18:32 warns, “You shall not profane the holy things of the people of Israel, lest you die.” Yet, the Scriptures encourage us to “come boldly before the throne of grace” (Heb 4:16). How is this possible? How can we find refuge rather than fear in the presence of our holy God?

The astounding truth of the gospel is that the holy God chose to draw near to us. In Christ, “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14), and “in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Col 2:9). Where Christ goes, his holiness overcomes our unholiness. The blind see, the crippled walk, and sinners are saved. God’s holiness, once a source of fear, becomes the reason for Christian joy as we are covered in God’s grace. Remember this when you think of baptism. We are “baptized into Christ” (Rom 6:3) and we are “blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph 1:3). The holy God whose presence terrified the great heroes of the OT is the same God who unites us to himself.

The marvel of the gospel is that Christians are safe in the holy presence of God. God makes peace between us and himself (Rom 5:1) and even in his holy presence, there is no condemnation (Rom 8:1). The God who seemed distant and unapproachable is the same God who invites you to take refuge in him, to draw near, and to find peace in his holy presence. Our relationship with God and nearness to God should be valued above everything in this life (Deut 6:5; Matt 10:37). There will be many opportunities to be distracted from God and to be led away from God. Say no to them (1 Jn 2:15). The guilt of past sin may try to hold you back, but Christ can bring you home (Is 43:25). It is good for you to be near God, to make the Lord GOD your refuge, and to tell of all his works (Ps 73:28).

Donnie DeBord

LET'S TAKE A MINUTE. . .

## WHEN LIFE DOESN'T GO RIGHT

*“We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair.” (2 Cor. 4:8)*

How can one measure his maturity in Christ? It's in the way he responds when things go wrong! If we think that God doesn't hear our pleas for help, we have some more growing up to do.

I recently read about an explorer named Sam Hearne (1745-1792), while on an expedition into northern Canada, had an essential piece of equipment used for charting his course, to break down. Thus, he had to end his expedition and turn back toward home. Later, thieves took most of his essential supplies!

After that, Hearne, unexpectedly, recorded in his journal “As thieves had materially lightened my load. . . this part of my journey was the easiest and most pleasant of any I had experienced since I left the fort.”

We go back to the first century and discover Paul traveling from town to town preaching the gospel and facing opposition and other difficult situations. (2 Cor. 4-8; 11:23-33) Then, after time, he found help and hope by turning to the Lord.

How about you? How do you respond when things go wrong? Do you fall apart? If so, do you seek God's help in prayer? Are you “Casting all your cares upon Him, because He cares for you?” (1 Pet. 5:7) Do you pray for a positive attitude in handling life's problems?

When things go wrong, ask God for strength and wisdom and He will grant them to you!

My minute's up!

James A Horton

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- Chris Grisham will start treatments for breast cancer this week. Please pray for her , her family, and her medical team.
- Benny Thornton passed away last week. A memorial service will be held at a later date for him. Please pray for his family at this difficult time.
- Greg Harrell passed away last week. He is the uncle of Kat Mann. Please pray for his family.

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

Ann Akins, Johnnie Jumper, Lindsay Garrison, Pattie Box, Anna Hearn Thompson, Chris Grisham, Wade Carmichael, Brenda Koon, Carol Smith, Ali Rae Barkley, Cora Chills, Austin Wentz, Jan Rooker, Lori Chapman, Mike Harrison, Shan Grisham, Trey Smith, Lenox Kennamore, Clem Edge, Linda Cook, Dianne Butler, Susan Ainsworth, Billy Hugh McBryde, Phil Young, Tom Childers, Peggy Wallis, Paula Dowty, Steve Robinson, Donald McTizi , Lynn DeBord, Kenny James, Benny Wallis, Shandal Maxedon, Dennis Woods, Vince Jordan  
**Diversicare:** Terri Barkley C-9, Cindy Holly D-8

**NEWS & NOTES**

- We still have dishes on the table in the back foyer. Please check to see if any of them belong to you.
- Please help us fill the yearly lists with volunteers for the nursery, RYG Invasions, and preparing communion. The nursery list is in the nursery, RYG list is on the youth table, and the communion list is on the table in the foyer.
- There will be a Super Bowl Watch Party after services Sunday night in the fellowship hall. A food list is on the youth table. Everyone is welcome.
- There will be a men’s breakfast February 23 at 8:00. There will be a sign up list for those planning to attend in the foyer.
- Angela and Lucy James will be nursery attendants this Sunday.

Worship Service February 9, 2025

Welcome.....	Donnie DeBord
Song Leader.....	Josh James
Opening Prayer AM .....	Michael Harrison
Read Scripture .....	Mike Bennett
Lord’ Supper AM .....	Nathan Robertson
Assisting at the Lord’s Table AM .....	Tucker Shappley, Hayden Kuhl, Anderson Thompson
.....	Cole Chapman, Hunter Kuhl, Timmy DeBord
Closing Prayer AM.....	Mike Hudson
Opening Prayer PM .....	Sonny Meeks
Lord’s Supper PM .....	Mike Hurst
Closing Prayer PM .....	Nathan Stanford
Usher .....	Roger McAlister