

# 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 Shapley

## **ELDERS**

David Cook

Michael Harrison

Mark Martindale

## **DEACONS**

Ronald Chapman

Rob Elliott

Shane Green

David Hudson

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)

Reservations

[rcocreservations@gmail.com](mailto:rcocreservations@gmail.com)

## **Be At Peace**

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people” Romans 12:18

We love our congregation, and we want to enjoy being together as much as possible. To enjoy our church as much as possible, we must be at peace as much as possible. Peace is “a pervasive concept in the Bible that most commonly relates to a relationship of love and loyalty with God and one another” (*LBD*). Peace is “the wholeness that comes as a result of alignment with God’s creative and redemptive purposes” (*LBD*). Peace is enjoyed by people when they live without dispute and in harmony.

The entire book of Romans focuses on peace between God and man. Romans 12 summarizes this peace between Christians. Jonathan Edwards said, “This chapter is a sort of a summary of those virtues and graces, amiable actions and heavenly dispositions, which more especially adorn the Christian, and make ’em shine brighter than other men” (“Living Peaceably with One Another”).

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As we investigate Romans 12:18, it is important to be aware that Paul placed the exhortation to “be at peace” at the very end of the sentence so that the reader anxiously anticipates what is to come. All that anxious anticipation leads to the Lord’s command to “be at peace.” Instead of anxiety, God’s people are to be at rest. The command to be peaceful is found quite often in the New Testament (Mk. 9:50, Rom. 12:18, 2 Cor. 13:11, 1 Thess. 5:13).

Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you” (Jn. 14:27). Since God had forgiven his people, redeemed them from the consequences of sin, and declared them righteous, Christians must be forgiving and at peace with one another. Paul taught that the kingdom of God is typified by “righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding (Rom. 14:15-19). Christians go out of their way to be at peace with their church family. Divisiveness is far easier and even more natural than peace, but peace is far more enjoyable and needful for God’s people. This peace is to be pursued “so far as it depends on you.” There will always be some who choose to live as a nuisance, but we do not have to join their misery. Christians can choose to enjoy the great peace of God together.

Our responsibility to seek peace with all people reminds us of the great potential blessing of Christian fellowship. As Tom Schreiner said, “One of the marks of Christians is a winsome and friendly spirit that delights in peace and harmony, not arguments and division (*Romans*, 653). Surely this type of “friendly spirit that delights in peace and harmony” would be a treasure to enjoy and protect. “We are made one for another. We are not made for ourselves alone; we are made to be useful to society. Neither can we possibly subsist without the help of our fellow men. God in the creation designed men for society, that we might help each other and love each other; and shall we, instead of that, tear one another or do what tends to make each other’s lives uncomfortable?” (Jonathan Edwards, “Living Peaceably”).

Donnie DeBord

LET'S TAKE A MINUTE. . .

## SIN HAUNTS THE GUILTY

“The wicked flee when no man pursues but the righteous are as bold as a lion.” (Prov. 28:1)

Ever since the young boy took candy in the grocery store, hid it in his pocket, and walked out of the store without paying for it, he had been unable to sleep! He had never stolen anything before. Every unexpected sound from the direction of his parent's room made him jump – afraid they had discovered his sinful deed. He was sure he would be found out and terror filled his heart! O, how he wished now that he had never taken anything that did not belong to him. He knew better than to do it. He had been taught better than to steal. He was punishing himself knowing that if his act of thievery were to be discovered, it would bring great embarrassment, not only to himself, but to his honorable family!

When a Christian does wrong, at any age and to any degree, they can hardly live with themselves. They feel like everyone around them knows their secret and that they have disappointed themselves, their family, their friends and their fellow Christians. Perhaps this is what Solomon meant when he wrote, “The way of the transgressor is hard!” (Prov. 13:15) It is not easy to live with a lie!

When a Christian does wrong, his conscious nags at him until he can hardly live with himself. He feels that everyone knows what he has done so he wants to run away from his guilt. Thus, Solomon said, “The wicked flee when no man pursues!” Our own conscious condemns us. John wrote, “If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things.” (I John 3:20) So, God already knows of our misdeeds and it is to Him that we must answer for them! Remember, “. . . all things are open and naked unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do” (Heb. 4:13) There are no ‘secrets’ hidden from God, “Who will bring every work into judgment, and every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” (Eccl. 12:14)

If we live faithful to God's will, we have nothing to fear or to dread! When we have the strength to shun temptation, with God's help (I Cor.10:13), we may live as bold as the lion, while the evildoer runs and hides, lest his sins be discovered.

My minute's up! James A. Horton

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- Clay Crawford had cancer surgery and did well. Remember him and his family in your prayers.
- Bonnie Martindale is recovering from a recent fall that required surgery to fix her hip that was broken. Remember her and her family in your prayers.
- James Johnston is at home recovering from surgeries. Please pray that he is healed soon.
- Carla Kuhl is recovering at home from foot surgery. Pray that she continues to do well.
- Peggy Wallis has been moved from the nursing home back to her home to recover. Pray that she continues to improve.
- Chuck Ellis, Charles Ellis’s son, will have surgery Wednesday. Pray for him, his medical team, and his family.
- Please pray for Tina Blades Samford, a friend of Benny and Regina Wallis, who has cancer.
- Shan Grisham, Vicki Crawford’s brother, passed away. Pray for his family at this difficult time.

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

Susan Ainsworth, Ann Akins, Ali Rae Barkley, Tina Blades, Pattie Box, Annette Brooks, Dianne Butler, Wade Carmichael, Cora Chills, Clay Crawford, Alice Cross, Paula Dowty, Roger Cunningham, Grevil Flores, Chris Grisham, Jamers Horton, Ann Izard, Kenny James, James Johnston, James Allen Johnston, Vince Jordan, Johnnie Jumper, David Lipe, Billy Hugh McBryde, Donald McTizi, Sharon Monson, Savannah Orman, Steve Robinson, Jan Rooker, Brandie Rutgers, Carol Smith, Trey Smith, Anna Hearn Thompson, Peggy Wallis, Austin Wentz, Jimmy Willingham, Betty Stubblefeild, Dennis Woods

**Diversicare:** Terri Barkley C-9, Cindy Holly D-8

**NEWS & NOTES**

- Remember our weekly fellowship meal on Wednesday night at 6:00.
- Ladies Day at Strickland Church of Christ, March 7. See flyer in foyer for details.
- There are many opportunities to help with English Language Learner classes. You can find a link on Light Post to sign up to help with childcare, tutoring, meal preparation, etc. .
- We are currently trying to change our communication app over to Light Post. See Cole or Tucker if you are having issues with it.
- Nathan Stanford and Sam Green will be going on a mission trip to Alaska in March. If you would like to aid them in doing this good work, donations can be given to one of our Elders. Please pray that they have a safe and successful trip.
- Jessie and Sophie DeBord will be keeping the nursery this Sunday.

Worship Service March 1, 2026

Welcome.....	David Cook
Song Leader AM.....	Caleb James
Opening Prayer AM.....	Paul Macaluso
Read Scripture.....	Tucker Orman
Lord’ Supper AM.....	Josh James
Assisting at the Lord’s Table AM.....	Robert Elliott, Patrick Ginn, Stephen Wallace
.....	Benny Wallis, Rodney Chapman, Billy Morton
Closing Prayer AM.....	Barry Grisham
Song Leader PM.....	Tucker Shappley
Opening Prayer PM.....	Palmer Jones
Lord’s Supper PM.....	Benny Wallis
Closing Prayer PM.....	Mike Bennett