

THE RIPLEY BEACON

FROM

THE RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 16, 2017



“Where the Gospel is Preached and People are Loved!”

Do They Know What You Are For?

People frame their arguments in ways that cast a positive light on their position. Those who support abortion call themselves pro-choice or pro women’s rights. On the opposite side, those who are against abortion refer to themselves as pro-life. Those who support same-sex marriage say they are in favor of marriage equality. While those who are against it say they are in favor of traditional marriage. The point is this, the way we frame our arguments, positions, and beliefs matters.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). We could borrow from the wisdom of these groups and make sure the world knows what we stand for and not simply what we stand against. So what should we do? Let me suggest three things.

First, you need to *evaluate* your current communication with the world. Take an honest look at your social media posts. Think about your conversation with those around you. As you look at the totality of your communication with the world, do you focus more on the negative or on the positive? Are your words focused around outrage of wrongs or encouragement to do right? There is nothing wrong with speaking out against sin, but when you focus primarily on those things people begin to tune you out because they don’t know the positive things in your belief system. You must evaluate your communication with the world around you.

Second, you need to *enlist* some help. Sometimes our perception of ourselves can be skewed. Talk to people in your circle of whom you trust. Ask them what their perception of your beliefs is. Ask them if you primarily focus on the negative or the positive. Seek honest opinions of how others view your social media posts and communications with others.

Third, if you find that you have been focusing mainly on the negative develop a plan to change that pattern and then *execute* it. Keep track of negative posts and make sure that you counter them with positive posts. When you take to people about God, Jesus, and the Church, focus on the positive aspects of the Christian life. This doesn’t mean that we ignore sin, but if all they hear is negative, negative, negative, why would they want to be a Christian?

Let’s be a people that are known by what we are for and not only what we are against!
~Justin

Elders:

Larry Carden
Steve Carmack
Joe Hunt
David Snell

Deacons:

Pat Carmack
Tommy Climer
Gwinn Matthews
Kenneth Roark

Minister:

Justin Paschall
731-612-1196

Service Times:

Sun. Bible Study-10 AM
Sun. Worship-11 AM
Sun. Night-5 PM
Wed. Night-7 PM

Contact Information:

Address:

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Ripley, TN 38063

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“Come Worship with Us!”

The Ripley church of Christ

P.O. Box 464

1499 Highway 51 North

Ripley, TN 38063

What Must I Do to Be Saved?

- Hear the Word of God – Rom. 10:17
- Believe that Jesus is the Son of God – Heb. 11:6; John 8:24
- Repent of your sins – Acts 17:30
- Confess Christ before men – Rom. 10:10; Matt. 10:32-33
- Be baptized for the remission of your sins – Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Remain Faithful – Rev. 2:10

By The Numbers for April 9th

Attendance:

Sun. Bible Study – 78
Sun. AM Worship – 104
Sun. PM Worship – 65
Wed. Night (4/12) – 81

To Our Visitors:

We are so glad and honored that you chose to be with us today. If you have any questions please feel free to ask the elders or one of the members. If we can be of any assistance, please let us know. Thanks for being with us, and we hope to see you again real soon!

Listen to WTRB 1570 AM and

104.9 FM Radio

Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday

8:15 AM

Check us out on the web:

www.ripleychurchofchrist.org

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AM Bible Study:

Song Leader – Kenneth Roark
Audio/Visual – Jimmy Hartman
Devotional – David Bridges

AM Service:

Usher – Barry Bates/Darrell Smothers
Announcements – Tommy Climer
Song Leader – David Snell
Audio/Visual – Jimmy Hartman
Opening Prayer – Rusty Kennedy
Lord’s Supper – (S) Raymond Neal
(S) Joel Sutton
(N) Darrell Smothers
(N) Bryan Hartman
(N) Mel Gibson

Closing Prayer – Larry Carden
Security – Frank Carmack

PM Service:

Announcements – Tommy Climer
Song Leader – David Snell
Audio/Visual – Jimmy Hartman
Opening Prayer – Joe Hunt
Lord’s Supper – Raymond Neal
Closing Prayer – Steve Carmack
Security – Frank Carmack

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader – MacArthur Watkins
Audio/Visual – Jimmy Hartman
Opening Prayer – David Snell
& Devotional
Closing Prayer – Pat Carmack
Security – Barry Bates

Door Greeters for April

South – Robert Taylor
Center – Joe Hunt
North – Steve Carmack

Communion for April

Rusty and Vickie Kennedy

April Birthdays

- Chris Carmack – 1
- Kamisha Dixon – 2
- Robert Anderson – 7
- Courtney Smith – 8
- Roy Colvin – 8
- Joe Hunt – 10
- JT Yarbrough
- Lauren Carmack – 10
- Abby Moore – 11
- Maddy Moore – 11
- Will Carmack – 12
- Waylon Blevins – 12
- Eunice Dobbs – 12
- Fisher Carmack – 16
- Donna Bridges – 19
- Caroline Snell – 26
- Aaliyah Alley – 30



Mark Your Calendars!

- **April 23rd** – Wedding Shower for Mariah Carmack at 2 pm at the building. She is registered at Bed, Bath, and Beyond and Walmart.
- **April 30th** – Friends and Family Day at the Ripley church of Christ
- **June 4th-9th** – Reelfoot Youth Camp for ages 9-18.
- **June 19th-21st** – Vacation Bible School at the Ripley church of Christ
- **June 26th** – Summer Youth Series at the Ripley church of Christ at 7 pm.
- **July 16-19th** – Gospel Meeting at the Ripley church of Christ.

What Are My Children Studying?

- **Apr. 16th** – Lesson 39 – Adam and Eve Sin – Genesis 3
- **Apr. 19th** – Lesson 40 – Cain Kills Abel – Genesis 4
- **Apr. 23rd** – Lesson 41 – Adam’s Descendants – Genesis 5

Those in Need of Our Prayers and Encouragement:

Our Regulars/Friends/Relatives:

- At any given time there are members going through different difficulties that they would rather keep private. Please say a prayer for them; God knows who they are.
- Ted Sutton was admitted to the hospital on Wednesday due to difficulty breathing. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Joe Hunt’s mom, Etta Hunt, passed away. Funeral services were held on Wednesday (3/29). Please keep the family in your prayers.
- JB Haynes (June Roark’s bother) is back home taking antibiotic treatments. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Keosha Halliburton (Mary Halliburton’s daughter) lost all of her possessions in a house fire. Thankfully neither she nor her three children were injured. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- Philip Rhodes is having some health related problems. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Mike White is scheduled to have surgery on May 1st. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Bobby Mullins (Micah’s father) had heart surgery on Friday (4/7). The procedure was unsuccessful. Doctor visits are planned for the future to determine a course of action. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Demetra Carmack is undergoing radiation treatments. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.
- Guylene Cultrer (kin of Julia Alley) has been diagnosed with leukemia. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Valencia Crook (kin of Julia Alley) has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She had surgery on Wednesday (2/22). Please keep her in your prayers.
- Larry Carden has finished his radiation treatments and will have tests in the coming weeks. Please keep him in your prayers.
- Johnnie Matthews: Please continue to keep her and Gwinn in your prayers.
- Robert Taylor, WL Sandlin, Betty Brogdon, Gwinn Matthews, Eunice Dobbs, Marion Morris, Ronnie Tillman, Georgia Campbell, Tim Carmack, Lille Dennison, Ted Sutton, Joyce Blakemore, Seth May, Paula Tillman, Brenda Belton, Drexel Reed, Dot Mullins, Brenda Sutton, Don Sutton, Betty Binkley, and Everett & Mary Presson: Please keep these individuals in your prayers.

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16)