

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 July 29th

Attendance:

Sun. Bible Study – 102
Sun. AM Worship – 126
Sun. PM Worship – 69
Wed. Night (8/1) – 65

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

The Ripley church of Christ
P.O. Box 464
1499 Highway 51 North
Ripley, TN 38063

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THE RIPLEY BEACON

FROM

THE RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 5, 2018



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

Rejoice Always?! – Part 1

As Paul was bringing his first letter to the church at Thessalonica to a close, he issued a series of commands to the brethren there. In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22, eight imperatives are given to the brethren. And while much good can come from a study of all eight of these mandates, we will concern ourselves with just one of these lofty thoughts: “Rejoice always” (1 Thessalonians 5:16). Found within such a simple statement is a very complex command upon which every Christian should meditate.

Most people want to be happy. In fact, if you were to ask people of all ages, races, income levels, and social standing what they want from life, the most common answer you would receive is, “I want to be happy.” Multi-million dollar businesses, countless books, and talk show hosts all revolve around the concept of helping people to be happy. We seek happiness in the world around us. We rid our lives of things that make us unhappy.

God wants his children to be happy. Jesus wants us to be happy. We want to be happy. So why is it so hard to obey this commandment to “Rejoice always?” Why do we find it so difficult to be happy? I believe the problem is three-fold. First, we are confused about what happiness is. Second, we look for happiness in the wrong places. Third, we need to recognize some keys that will help us to remain joyful.

First, we need to understand what happiness is. And in order to understand what it is, it may be helpful to understand what it is not. Happiness is not the same things as pleasure, especially pleasure that derives from sin. Pleasure is something that is fleeting, temporary. It lacks sufficient depth and substance to have any lasting effect. It is why we see the alcoholic going back to the bottle, again and again. It is why we see the drug addict looking for the next fix and the materialistic individual looking for the next purchase. Moses understood the temporary nature of pleasure. In Hebrews 11, we are told that he choose “to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.”

Happiness is something that runs deeper. It originates from the love of God. It takes root in knowing that, as Christians, we are in a right relationship with Him. It is grounded in all that has been done for us by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. True joy transcends the things of this world and looks to a world to come. Next week, we will notice the second road block to true happiness.

~Justin

Elders:

Larry Carden
Steve Carmack
Joe Hunt
David Snell

Deacons:

Pat Carmack
Tommy Climer
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:

P.O. Box 464
Ripley, TN 38063

Phone: 731-635-2936

Email: ripleycoc@att.net

“Come Worship with Us!”

