



Who? Me?

I do not think it is a stretch to say that many people take comfort in playing the victim. No matter what happens, it is always someone else's fault. It's **never** the fault of the person who actually did the wrong. Why is that? Is it because there are simply so many enemies out to get us? Is it because everyone is wrong and we are right? I am not convinced with either of these answers. I find it interesting that, even at the beginning times of existence when man and woman lived in the garden, this kind of thing was going on. Once God confronts Adam, his only excuse is that it is the **WOMAN'S** fault! Once God confronts Eve, her only excuse is that it is the **SERPENT'S** fault! Whose fault was it? Of course, it was their own fault. Yet, in the midst of their pride and shame, they were unwilling to come to grips with their mistake.

Even in the midst of their sin, there was promised a **deliverer** (Genesis 3:15). And ironically enough, He **WOULD** be the victim. He would end up gladly taking the blame (2 Corinthians 5:21). For **you**. For **me**. That changes things a bit, doesn't it? What then? In view of what Christ did for us, let us always be humble enough to admit fault. It is the least we can do for the one who truly took the blame for us all.

-Dimitri Sims

Ecclesiastes 7:15 to 8:17 Sunday Evening Questions Tom Steed

- What is wisdom? How do we recognize wisdom today? How would you define wisdom? Who would you consider a "wise person" if you needed advice?
- How many upright people would you expect to find in 1,000 today?
- Do you believe capital punishment serves as a deterrent to crime? Why or why not?
- Have you heard the saying, "There is a time and place for everything?" Do you agree?

The 30's / 40's class taught by Bill Jones and Adam Creel will resume this Sunday evening at 6:00 p.m., meeting upstairs in classrooms 252 and 253. After watching the lesson from the auditorium, they will discuss the questions. Join in!

Upcoming Events:

Adventure Club/Pre-Teen

- **Parent Meeting:** TBA, we will have a parent meeting to help plan for our 2021 calendar.

Teen

- **Winter Retreat:** Friday - Sunday, January 15-17, Children's Harbor. Meet at the building at **4:30 p.m.** Departure: **5:00 p.m.** Return: Sunday, **2:30 p.m.**
- **JR/SR Retreat:** Friday – Sunday, March 5-7, Marshall Retreat Center, Guntersville, Alabama. Cost: \$55.00

College

- **Volleyball:** Friday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. in the gym.

Choose Joy Eric Gott

In the hallway of our apartment there is a sign hanging on the wall that reads, "Choose Joy." It's a simple reminder for our family to look for joy, even when our week is busy or life feels slightly out of control. If you are like me, then you often can get caught up in your daily routine and fail to see some of the special, joyful moments that are passing you by. It's also easy to focus on the chaos and noise of our world and lose sight of joy. 2021 has already proven to be challenging for the Gott household. COVID has kept us quarantined longer than anyone would like, and my father-in-law is currently sick in the hospital fighting pneumonia due to COVID. Reading the news or scanning social media is a reminder that our country is politically polarized, causing a sense of disheartenment and grief. It's easy to be so preoccupied with these worries, fears, and concerns that one loses sight of all joy.

So last night, I decided to make a list of ways I have seen joy over the past 12 days.

There has been joy in playing board games with the older kiddos and watching them learn to celebrate each other's wins.

There has been joy in hearing the deep belly laughs of my oldest daughter.

There has been joy in teaching the two older kids the song, "Shout Hallelujah" (They still sing, *Shark Hallelujah*, but we are working on it).

There has been joy in watching the twins begin to smile and laugh more as they are settling into our family routine.

There has been joy at dinner as we reflect on our day.

There has been joy at bedtime as I read the children a bedtime story and listen to them share their thoughts on topics ranging from dangerous animals ("is a jellyfish or a hamster dangerous, dad?") to friends, to God.

So for today, I will keep choosing joy. Life will always throw hard moments my way, but today my focus is Psalm 100:1, "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."



Teen Winter Retreat Guest Speaker



We will have a guest speaker at the Teen Winter Retreat this year. Jason Darden received his B.A. in kinesiology and missions from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. In December of 2010, Jason graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary with an M.A. in theology. He is now a bible professor at Harding University. He previously served in the Army and was stationed in Egypt after 9/11. He continues to serve in the Army reserves as a chaplain. He was previously a pulpit minister at the Parkway Church of Christ in Savannah, Georgia. He also served as minister for two congregations in California and did campus ministry at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Jason is married to Mary Darden and together, they have two daughters, Alayla and Izabella.



Paul's Advice, Part 2

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth (NASB).

The second part of this verse is important to understand if we want to be a participant in God's plan to save mankind. When we became part of the Lord's kingdom, did someone tell us that we needed to be ready to work? Or did we assume that our only duty was to attend church services? I think it's time to change our minds if we thought that serving in the Lord's kingdom meant we just sit at services and listen. Although worshipping God as a church is a commandment, it's not the only commandment we need to follow. We are to be workers in the Lord's kingdom, and the work we do needs to be presented in such a way that we are not ashamed of it. Just like in our regular jobs, where we try to do our best and be competent and learn as much as we can, we need to bring the same attitude to the work we do for the Lord.

- David

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to **Mary Scott** in the passing of her husband and our dear brother, **Ollie Scott**. The funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Welcome to the Family



Welcome to **Jeff, Rachel and Kaleigh Mathews** (FTG #5) who recently placed membership. Their address is 1220 Berwick Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35242. Jeff's phone number is 334-398-3476 and Rachel's is 205-757-5836.

COVID CONCERNS



As **COVID** cases continue to be on the increase, everyone's support and compliance with our **COVID** control measures is imperative. We encourage everyone to please wear their mask. Thank you.

Sunday Worship Services Schedule

Due to the rise in the COVID numbers, our elders have decided to have three Sunday morning worship times. We will have 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Our adult Bible Classes will now be on Sunday nights, 6:00 p.m., in the auditorium and streaming in the classrooms. Wednesday Bible Service for adults will be in the auditorium at 7:00 p.m. Teen and children classes will meet Sunday nights in their respective classrooms, or as directed. The broadcasts will be available on [Riverchase's webpage](#), [Facebook page](#), [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#). Recordings of all services will continue to be available under sermons on our website, www.riverchasechurch.org.

Ladies' Ministry

Due to COVID, the Dorcas Club that was supposed to meet Saturday, January 16, has been canceled. Please plan to attend the next one on Saturday, February 20.

Riverchase Church of Christ
LifeSouth Blood Drive
January 24, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
In the Family Life Center

Give Blood
It's About *Life*

For the Record

Sunday, January 10, 2021

8:00 Worship	77
9:30 Worship	138
11:00 Worship	75
Total Sunday Morning	290
Sunday Night	148
Contribution	\$35,182.33
YTD Average	\$61,583.85
Budget	\$37,500.00

Dear Riverchase Family,

Thank you Riverchase church on behalf of the entire Yaeger family for the support and prayers this past December as our mom passed to her eternal glory. Thank you for the years of visiting her and sending her cards! A memorial is available to watch at www.JoYaeger.life. In lieu of flowers, the family is asking for tribute donations to WBS that will be dedicated to the President's Endowment and a plaque will be placed on the WBS wall of honor.

*Love,
The Yaeger's*

Dear Riverchase Family,

We have been incredibly humbled by the way you have surrounded us with love, meals, clothing, diapers, gift cards, money, and prayers as we have transitioned this month into parenting our 2 new little ones. We have seen the love of Christ in the way you have given selflessly and without hesitation to the care of these precious children. Since we began fostering, we've prayed that we would be able to provide for the children in our care, and you have made that happen abundantly. Thank you for the love you show us consistently. Please continue to pray for our family and for our kiddos' birth mother. We love you and are infinitely grateful for the love you have shown!!

*Love,
Eric and Leah Gott*

Upcoming Events

- **Teen Winter Retreat:** Friday - Sunday, January 15-17. Be at the building at 4:30 p.m. will depart at 5:00 p.m.
- **Volleyball:** Friday, January 22, 6:00 p.m. in the gym.
- **Riverchase Church of Christ Blood Drive:** Sunday, January 24, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PELHAM, AL 35124
PERMIT NO. 197



1868 Montgomery Hwy.
Birmingham, AL 35244
www.riverchasechurch.org

This week at Riverchase:

- Wednesday Night Bible Study in the auditorium.
- Teen Winter Retreat
- Three Sunday Morning Worship Services:
Sunday, January 17, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m.
and 11:00 a.m. Bible Class at 6:00 p.m.

Please continue to remember in prayer:

Patricia Anderson (former member), **Tommie Cleghorn** (Jay's mother), **Joan Harris** (Betz's friend), **Richard Howe** (Steve's dad), **Martha Manwarring** (former member), **Claudia Sibert** (John's mother).

Please pray for our active duty deployed military:

RIVERCHASE FAMILY

Johnny & Diana Barnes (#7) recovering from COVID.
David Bath (#3) will have outpatient surgery on his kidney for kidney cancer.
Phyllis Gibson (#6) at Grandview with a broken hip.
Kenneth Hager (#2) recovering from a heart ablation.
Lindsay Handley (#6) recovering from outpatient surgery waiting on test results.
Billy & Carol Ingram (#3) Billy is in ICU at Grandview with COVID/pneumonia. Carol is recovering from COVID.
Martha Johnston (#3) recovering from COVID.
Nona Miller (#3) recovering from COVID.
Nancy Mount (#2) recovering from COVID.
Scott Pruitt (#6) recovering from COVID.
Mary Scott (#1) recovering from COVID.
Karen Smith (#6) recovering from COVID.
Elizabeth Whitehead (#3) recovering from a heart ablation.
James Windham (#7) in Shelby recovering from COVID.

CONTINUE TO REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS:

FTG #1: Rejetta Balentine, Charles Bates, Lynda Cardwell, Angie Dickinson, Keith Dunn, Michelle Whitaker
FTG #2: Glenda Arnold, John Bearden, Bertha Bell, Victor Boone, Bill Crane, Kay Kolb, Nina Pitchford, Lance Rushing, Bob Smith, Bob Snider, Doris Tucker
FTG #3: David Bath, Ruth Bath, Becky Carter, David Hare, Martha Johnston, Nona Miller, Stephen Wright
FTG#4: Jeff Carroll, Susan Chaney, Vonda Cook, Elaine Evans, Gary Evans, Bill Hester, Alan Jackson, Everleigh Self, Cindy Snider
FTG #5: Tami Picantine, Beverly Strange, Ron Waddell
FTG #6: Zane Armstrong, Erick Boggs, Michelle Diciara, Don & Shirley Genry, Don Greer, Addie Jackson, Jo Jackson, Grover Jackson, Sarah Wolford
FTG #7: Don & Jan Haefner, Peggy Hendley, Peggy Jackson, Lori Lambert, Candy Parker, Tim Parker, Jerry Sharp, Katie Yaeger

ADD TO YOUR PRAYER LIST OUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:

Noreen Anderson (Jina O'Clair's mother) health issues.
Jessica Brown (Glenda's daughter in law) breast cancer.
Bob Edwards (Ron Steen's cousin) MDS.
Kristy Elliott (Staci Kolb's sister) mental health issues.
G. Estes (friend of Pitchford's) chemo.
Jan Hall (Helen Haskew's sister - in - law) health issues.
Jane Harrison (Peggy Hendley's sister in law) heart issues.
Billy Helms diagnosed with NASH.
Margie Martin (Alan Jones aunt) COVID.
Myra Myrick (Pam Wampol's aunt) ovarian cancer.
Cecil Parker (Rhonda Ball's grandfather) liver disease.
Ruby Pitts (Dana Keith's mother) Alzheimer's.
McKenzie Ray (friend of Amber Henderson) leukemia.
Faye Reeves (Paula Davis' mother) stroke.
Ronnie Rogers (CJ Rogers father - college student) brain cancer.
Pattie Ryan (Sarah Pate's mother) melanoma.
Mary Ella Sirmon (The Sirmon's granddaughter) seizures.
Tricia Shanlever (The Hare's daughter) liver issues.
Pauline Strickland (Pam Williams friend) immunotherapy.
Lisa Wallace (Bath's niece) breast cancer.
Carol Watson (Fred Langdon's sister) lymphoma.
Raymond White (Cindy Thompson's cousin) health problems.
Clay Young (Leah Gott's father) in ICU in Tennessee with COVID.