

CHURCH FOCUS September 2024



Pastor's Message:

WHAT YOU ARE MISSING WHEN YOU MISS CHURCH SERVICES

By Casey Kuhlman

1. Opportunities for Spiritual Growth. Messages are different every service and provide nourishment for different areas of life. Like a healthy variety of good food nourishes the body, a healthy variety of sermons nourishes the soul. You grow spiritually through a consistent, healthy diet of God's Word, but cannot expect to be well-nourished if you are regularly skipping "meal-time."

2. Getting the "Whole Picture." Neglecting services not only distances you from others on a spiritual level, it prevents you from getting the "whole picture" of the life of the church. You miss out on what is happening at church, spiritual needs and prayer requests, upcoming events, and news of blessings that God has provided.

3. Mutual Encouragement and Edification. The less you frequent the church, the less you know the needs of others and the less they know of yours. It is difficult to edify (build up) and encourage one another in the body of Christ (as God commands) if you spend little time together.

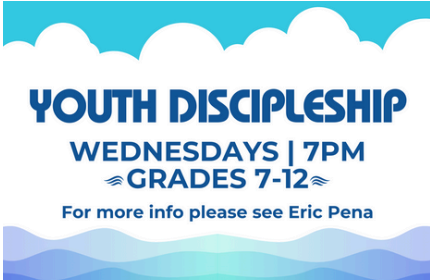
4. Unity in the Church. It makes sense that if all the members of a church were to faithfully attend together, feeding on the same spiritual truths and benefiting from each other's encouragement, that they would more naturally be in unison with one another.

5. Impact on Your Family. Your spouse and your kids can tell how important church is to you by how much of an effort you make to attend. Even if you tell them church is important to you, they will know otherwise if you let other things (like sleep, sports, activities, work, etc.) take precedence over church. And if they perceive that church isn't really that important in your life, chances are, it won't be that important in their lives either.

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This Month at RBC

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|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Communion 10am |
| 2 | Labor Day
<i>(Church office closed)</i> |
| 4 | Adventure Club 6:30pm |
| 5 | Bible Studies Resume
<i>(Women's 10am/Men's 7pm)</i> |
| 8 | Leaders Meeting 5pm |
| 11 | Youth Discipleship 7pm |
| 14 | Outreach 10am |
| 26-28 | Ironwood Men's Retreat |
| 29 | Round-Up Sunday 10am
Back-To-Back Services
& BBQ |



Youth Discipleship

We are excited to announce the return of Youth Discipleship under the direction of Eric Pena beginning Wednesday, September 11th at 7pm.



Adventure Club

Adventure Club returns on Wednesday, September 4th at 6:30pm for children ages 3-11.





Gospel Outreach

Join your church family Saturday, September 14th at 10am as we share the "Good News" with our community!



Discipleship Center

Come check out the DC! Books, Bible Studies, and more...there's something for everyone!



Discipleship Class

Come grow in your faith! Under the direction of Jose Duran, the Discipleship Class meets every Sunday morning at 9am in the DC.



Men's Prayer

Come be a part of this very special time of prayer and fellowship every Tuesday and Friday at 4:30pm.



CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP
2nd & 4th
Sundays
Ages 3-11

Regular Schedule

Sundays:

- Discipleship Class 9am
- Morning Worship Service 10am
- Children's Discipleship (2nd & 4th Sunday)
- Choir Practice TBA
- Evening Worship Service 6pm

Tuesdays & Fridays:

- Men's Prayer 4:30pm

Wednesdays:

- Adventure Club 6:30pm
- Youth Discipleship 7pm
- Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7pm

Thursdays:

- Women's 10am
- Men's 7pm

Three Ways to Give



At Church



Online



By Mail

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

9015 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, California 92503
(951) 687-6106

www.RBCSoCal.com
Pastor: Christian Torres

HOMEBUILDERS

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from front page)

Christ Is Enough

Though never ordained, H.A. Ironside (1876-1951) was a prolific Bible teacher and preacher. Inspired by Dwight L. Moody, he began delivering sermons at age 16. While still a teenager, he worked his way up to captain in the Salvation Army. But he soon had a breakdown from preaching more than 500 messages per year — and from feeling burdened by sin.

After Ironside recovered, his ministry blossomed. He pastored Moody Church in Chicago for 18 years while continuing his evangelistic travels. Most importantly, he learned to rely on Christ alone, not on his own merit.

"Christ and ... is a perverted gospel, which is not the gospel," wrote Ironside. "Christ without the and is the sinner's hope and the saint's confidence." He concluded, "For salvation itself, Jesus is not only necessary, but he is enough."

Second Fiddle

A fan once asked conductor Leonard Bernstein what instrument is hardest to play. "Second fiddle," he quickly replied. "I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm ... now that's a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony."

The church certainly needs both leaders and followers. And everyone should be flexible and ready to pivot quickly.

It's also important to have other arrows in our quiver — something biblical figures often demonstrated, according to Pastor Frank Ramirez. Although Amos was a high-profile prophet, he probably intended to return to being a shepherd and tending sycamore trees. Nehemiah, the emperor's cupbearer, had a second chapter helping to restore Jerusalem's walls and greatness. The apostles also had multiple roles, with careers in fishing and tax collecting before they left to follow Jesus.

What might your next life-chapter look like? How can you use it to bring glory to God?

What You Are Missing When You Miss Church Services

6. God's Blessing. God commands believers not to neglect the times set to see (or assemble) together. How can you expect God to bless your life when you disregard His command? "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: (and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching)" (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Casey Kuhlman was my pastor before coming here to Riverside Baptist as your pastor. Pastor Casey continues to shepherd in beautiful Yucca Valley today. He recommends *Jesus Loves The Church and So Should You* by Earl M. Blackburn. We have a copy of that book on the back wall. Dr. Joel Beeke says, "Earl Blackburn's much-needed *Jesus Loves The Church and So Should You* is scripturally rich and timely, and succinct yet thorough. His chapters on church membership are superlative. This book should be read by every Christian particularly in our day when love for Christ's bride, the church, is on the wane. I would recommend that every church give a copy of this book to each church family and encourage group studies on it. Who can tell what God will do with such a book as this?"

I have read the book as well and I concur with these men! I hope that you will take the time to at least peruse the book and share its much-needed principles with your family and friends. Jesus does love the church and so should we if we say that we are in Jesus.

With Sincere Love
In Christ,



Christian Torres
Pastor-Teacher