



Please join us
for worship on Sunday
February 22, 2009

Sermon Series
Spiritual Boot Camp:
The Disciplines of Grace
"Forgiveness"
by Chuck Holliday
1 Samuel 24

If you missed a sermon,
click [here](#) to listen on-line
or download to your iPod.

Sunday Schedule

- 10:30 AM Worship Service.
- Nursery during Worship Service
- Children's Programs for Pre-K through 5th Grade during Worship Service

YOUTH SCHEDULE

YOUTH GROUP
(Middle & High School)
Wed. 6:30-9:00pm

Adam Young
Youth Director
Adam@riverpca.org

COLLEGE GROUP
Sun. 6:00-9:00 pm
Brandon Gantt
gantt.brandon@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

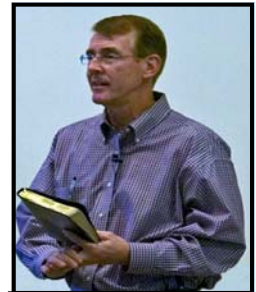
Peggy Noonan writes, "Finding God is not hard, because he wants to be found. But keeping God can be hard. He wants to be kept, of course, but for most of us, finding him and keeping him is the difference between falling in love and staying in love. The latter involves a decision that is held to."

With Valentines Day in our recent memory it might be helpful to reflect for a moment on the disciplines of staying in love. Flowers and cards can be given in a perfunctory way that say, "I did my duty, so give me a break and overlook the fact that I haven't felt any real love for you in a long time." John Piper reminds us that such an approach to dutiful discipline isn't likely to arouse a thrilling response from either an earthly spouse nor from our Loving Savior.

The alternative, however, is not to do nothing. We

can use occasions like Valentines to purposefully rekindle a love that once burned bright. We can take the time to pick out a meaningful gift or card, reflect on the things we do appreciate about our lover, express things in our heart that are true and meaningful even if they come with a longing for more than we are currently feeling. We can carve out time to get away, to reconnect, and to talk honestly about the relationship we miss. The point is this; staying in love requires intentional effort and sacrifice and occasions like Valentines Day can help us with those disciplines. What sometimes starts as pressure to go out and get a card can end up with the warmth of two reconnected hearts.

That's why God has given us the disciplines of grace. He knows our hearts will drift and our love for him will grow cold. Without the regular practice of solitude, community, repen-



Chuck Holliday, Pastor
River of Life Church

tance, worship, calling, giving, and forgiveness we quickly lose touch with who he really is and the wonder of his love for us. The disciplines do require intentional effort, that's why they are called "disciplines". And you cannot be a "disciple" without "discipline". But the purpose is not a robotic performance based arrangement. That kind of relationship is of no interest to God and of no benefit to us. What God has in mind is the thing that our souls long for more than any other thing; a daily, honest heart connection between us and the Divine Lover of the universe.

Pastor Chuck

Church Picnic
April 5

Church picnic will be after church on Sunday, April 5. Make plans now to attend this wonderful church wide event. More details will follow.





INQUIRER'S CLASS

The Inquirer's Class originally planned for this week-end (February 20 and 21) had to be postponed because of scheduling conflicts. The new class date will be announced soon.

If you want to know more about ROL or are interested in being a member, please sign up to be notified when the next class will take place. You can sign-up for notification online at www.riverpca.org or by calling the church office at 407-351-4333.



DISCIPLINES OF STAYING IN LOVE WITH JESUS

At the first of the year Pastor Chuck encouraged us to read through the Bible in one year. Are you one of those who wanted to do that but life got in the way? Here's another chance. There is a handout designed to help you read through the New Testament in one year. It doesn't have to be the calendar year. Your year of reading can start today! All it takes is 5 minutes a day—5 days a week!

You can pick up this Bible reading hand-out (while supplies last) in the foyer after church on Sunday.

ON-LINE GIVING

We have added the option of on-line giving to our web site.

Signing in is not a requirement for on-line giving but it is an option.

How to Give: Go to www.riverpca.org and click on the "Give" link on the top menu bar of our home page or click on the "Give" link on the side menu bar. You also can sign in and make the transaction on your personal page.

Some things you can now do on the web site are, choose to give a one time gift or set up automatic recurring gifts. You can use a credit/debit card or checking account.

Call Susie in the church office (407-351-4333) if you have any questions or need any assistance in getting started.

Here's the link for a [tutorial for on-line giving](#).



FINANCIAL UPDATE

WEEKLY UPDATE

Weekly Budget Need.....	\$	9,134.62
Last Week's Offering.....	\$	6,811.50
YTD Surplus.....	\$	5,731.23

