

SPRING 2023



ALL THINGS

He is before all things...

In Him all things hold together...

COL 1:16-18

WHAT'S ON

Light Party 2023

Don't miss out! It's all happening this **Saturday 28 October** from 3-6pm at Riverlife Church. This fantastic event for families with children aged 2-12 years old is not to be missed. Find out more details and register online for your tickets - <https://brushfire.com/riverlife/events/560668>

Join the Light Party Volunteer Team

We are anticipating more than 1500 people - over 1000 booked already - will attend the Light Party next Saturday and we can still use more volunteers. Contact Barb Peck on 0418 781 081 or email barb.peck@riverlifecyclechurch.org.au to find out more details.

Worship Art Showcase

You have probably noticed the art pieces hanging in the foyer today. Wander through the collections and let God speak to you through the artworks that have been created during our worship services over the last few years. Original canvases and some prints will be available for purchase during the day.

Play and Pray • 24 October

Parents and their young children are invited to join Pastor Petrea in the Chapel on **Tuesday 24 October** from 9.30-11am for Play and Pray. She will be sharing prayer activations using toys and methods of play.





Bible Study at Wesley Care

Each fortnight, Riverlife visits Wesley Care to run Bible Study for a small group of residents on a Thursday afternoon from 2-3pm. If you have a heart to connect with people and love God's Word, we are looking for 2-3 volunteers to help out once a month. Email aimee.cowan@riverlifechurch.org.au to find out more details.

Donate Pancake Shakers

It's that time of year when we collect hundreds of Pancake Shaker Mixes for our volunteers to take to Schoolies. Cooking pancakes for breakfast is a great way to connect with the schoolies. Next time you are shopping, why not put a couple of Pancake Mixes in your trolley and bring them along to Riverlife over the next couple of weeks. Drop them at reception or at the Info Desk on a Sunday.

Dedications Today

Riverlife families will bring their children before the Lord for dedication this morning. A warm welcome to friends and family who have joined them for this special occasion.

- + James and Pip Walker with Harriet
- + Justin and Michelle Nay with Christian and Candice
- + Andrew and Lizzie Nguyen with Josie
- + Kaliym and Sarah Skellern with George
- + Adrian and Alexandra Brand with William
- + Jae and Kim Eichorn with Judah
- + Jacob and Rachel Truloff with Hazel
- + Ryan and Jess Dickson with Jack



SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER 11.30AM - 1.30PM

Newcomers Lunch

COME ALONG IF YOU ARE NEW TO RIVERLIFE
(KIDS ARE WELCOME)

Keep Active

Our exercise class for the over 50 community meets at Riverlife on **Wednesdays at 10am**. Designed with a physiotherapist, the class caters for all levels of fitness and is designed to improve balance, stamina, strength and flexibility. Class is open to men and women. Invite a friend or neighbour and come join us each week. Cost: \$4 per person.

Fruit of the Spirit Podcast

Riverlife Bible Streams has a new podcast starting soon - *Fruit of the Spirit*. Come and explore with us as we look at the fruit of faith in Jesus.

Japanese Christian Fellowship Today

All welcome to join us today in the Chapel at 1pm for Japanese Christian Fellowship (JCF).

Newcomers Lunch

Join us on **Sunday 5 November** from 11.30am onwards in the Lounge. This is a great opportunity to chat with the Pastors, meet other people, find out more about Riverlife and how you can get connected. Children are welcome. Register online for catering purposes - <https://riverlifechurch.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1984668>.

Leaders for English Class

As the popularity of our English classes continues to grow, we are in need of additional leaders to join our team. The requirements for joining are minimal—just an inclusive and loving heart. If you feel that God is calling you to be part of this beautiful journey, please email maree.adams@riverlifechurch.org.au.

IN THE WAITING

Live Like Family

It's hard to grow up in a place, and then shed the old perceptions and biases, the stuff that people thought about you. How you live in community is so deeply impacted by the community itself. As we get to this last section of 1 Thessalonians, Paul has some pretty clear things to say about what it looks like to live in Christian community.

And why this is important? Well, it turns out that, as much as things have changed, nothing much has really changed! People are still in need of connection. And, in His infinite wisdom, God saw fit to make us family, His family, because He knew we'd need each other. So, while we are waiting, how do we encourage, challenge and spur each other on?

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. (You know how to spell it!)

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Paul's reminder here: if someone is in leadership, it's a big responsibility, so love them and support them, and give them the respect that deserves someone who Jesus asked to serve Him by leading others. This is getting to the heart of what Paul is trying to tell us about how this family works while we are in preparation for the Lord to return. It's all in order to have peace.

I'll Be There For You - 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

Jesus is coming back; you can't forget it, otherwise you get idle. But we are to build across generations and allow one generation to encourage the next, raise families well.

We take this momentum into how we relate to each other:

- + Don't check out – it's too important!
- + Don't be afraid – God is with us!
- + Lean on me – we're stronger together!
- + Remind ourselves to be patient as we do that...

Paul is recalling the life and example of Jesus here... Jesus did not repay evil, but gave His life; He did good for everyone.

- + Rejoice – always!
- + Pray – never stop!
- + Give thanks – all the time!
- + That's the way God created you to live!

You are hardwired to benefit from gratitude, intimate relationship with God, and by being thankful for everything you have. If we spend our time and energy encouraging one another with rejoicing, prayer and gratitude – imagine what could happen in our community?

We are Jesus' solution to the needs of the community, both in here and out there! It's all the same, because we are all made in His image.

Don't Stop Believing - 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

Paul, in the context of the original hearers, is speaking into cultural issues here: a combination of pagans, non-spiritualists, and misunderstandings of how the Spirit works.

Don't be worried or afraid! Don't be concerned, but rejoice that the Spirit is at work amongst us! Paul creates a near perfect setting here for exploring the work of the Spirit:

- + Don't make it about comparison – 'rejoice always'
- + Don't make it about who's 'more spiritual' – encourage, admonish, be patient – care about one another!
- + Don't make it authoritative in isolation – 'test everything' – so no one can lord it over someone else
- + Spit out the bones – 'hold fast to what is good'

There's a sense of inclusivity, of everyone being generous and humble, of bringing their offering to the family table; be it their energy, their prophetic words, and laying it all there. It creates a healthy space, where we can learn to trust one another, because nothing that anyone says is above being questioned! We needn't be afraid of false prophecy. We as a loving family will discern these things to be true or false, and God will empower us to live out His directions to us.

When All Is Said And Done... - 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Paul concludes his list of instructions with a beautiful promise, and a great reason while all of this matters. God is in the business of making us right; sanctifying us. And He's the one doing it. There's a shared responsibility: He makes it a fair fight, and we act accordingly!

But, we don't do it to get to Him, nor to participate in this family. No, instead it's the result of participation in the life of Jesus. It's the result of grace: God's empowerment working within us!

Why this is not just a spiritual exercise (He's sanctifying our body, soul and spirit, making them blameless), is that it is for the coming of the Lord!

If the end result was eternity in heaven, disembodied spirits, then why bother with the body and all those pesky feelings we have? Why worry about knowing him more? Because eternity is not a disembodied experience. Jesus is returning to re-create what you see around you: real, flesh and blood bodies. Everything set right!

Paul is convinced that what God did in Jesus: physical, bodily resurrection – that will be what happens for everyone. These encouragements that Paul calls us to observe matter because relationship, family, community: it doesn't end at Jesus' return. This is in fact practice for eternity!

Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me - 1 Thessalonians 5:25-28

A kiss? Maybe! But at least, greet each other in a way that demonstrates the intimacy and relationship you have in Christ Jesus. The Thessalonians needed to be reminded that they were one family, all in it together.

And in case we're worried, all of this depends on God's faithfulness. He will surely do it. This, in itself, is possibly the most profound discovery of Paul's entire catalogue. Paul bases his entire faith and reasoning on this principle: God's faithfulness.

Discussion Questions

1. How can the church community practice vulnerability and intimacy with one another, and why is this essential for the Christian community?
Context: The message concludes by encouraging the congregation to greet each other with a holy kiss, symbolising intimacy and vulnerability in relationships.
Apply It: Are there areas in your life where you struggle with vulnerability, and how can you overcome these challenges to foster deeper connections within your church community?
2. What are some ways the church can create a culture of discernment and avoid quenching the Holy Spirit?
Context: The message emphasises the importance of sitting prophecy in healthy community and treating the work of the Holy Spirit with discernment.
Apply It: How can you personally contribute to fostering an environment of openness to the Spirit and discernment in your own life?

3. How can rejoicing, prayer, and gratitude impact our relationships within the church?

Context: The message shares how modern research backs up the biblical claim of the mental and physical benefits of expressing gratitude, rejoicing and prayer.

What is one area of our life where we can practice rejoicing, prayer, and gratitude with others?

4. Why is it important to admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, and be patient with one another?

Context: Paul, in the passage, urges the church community in Thessalonica to practice these actions to strengthen relationships within the church community.

Apply It: Can you think of a time when someone in your life helped you in one of these ways and how that positively impacted you? How have you benefitted from someone doing this for you?

5. What are some ways we can respect and support our church leaders, as instructed by Paul in 1 Thessalonians?

Context: Paul alludes to the big responsibility of leadership (which extends to anyone in a role of spiritual oversight in our context, not just church staff).

Apply It: How can we go above and beyond to show love and support to our leaders in our own lives? What is something practical you can do? Maybe write a letter, send an email, take them out for coffee and thank them, share a testimony of what God is doing because of their leadership.

6. What is your experience of God's faithfulness? Does your heart come alive when you hear what God has done for you?

Context: Paul finishes this letter with the statement: "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." (Verse 24).

Apply It: Is there a place where God is calling you to know Him more deeply, to experience His love, so that His faithfulness might be the bedrock of your hope? Pray for a deeper revelation of God's faithfulness to you.

FOR PRAYER



ReachBeyond - Lebanon

- + It has been almost a month since Darren and Stephanie returned to Lebanon. Last week, we received an email from them expressing their deep appreciation to the many members of the Riverlife family who generously sponsored them financially. "Thanks to your support, we were able to cover all the school fees for a local Christian family, allowing them to enroll their son and daughter in the school. Additionally, you provided funds for their new books and school supplies, as well as some extra money to help them during a particularly challenging time."
- + Please pray for the ministry of the school. As Grace Community Church puts it, pray

that we can "Exalt the King and extend the Kingdom." Please pray for all the chapel talks and Bible lessons. Pray for wisdom and anointing for the teachers, and receptive hearts and open ears for the students.

- + Pray for Stephanie and Darren as they strive to be good witnesses for the Lord in their community. Pray that they will boldly speak His words of eternal life and use wisdom in their conversations and that the Lord will provide them with opportunities to share His truth and love.

Online Giving

If you would like to give tithes, offerings or donations, please use the following details.

ACCOUNT NAME RIVERLIFE BAPTIST CHURCH
BSB NO. 704-913
ACCOUNT NO. 400 039 640
REFERENCE TITHE, OFFERING OR DONATION

OR SMS 'RIVERLIFE' TO 0488 202 202



[CLICK HERE TO GIVE](#)

WHAT'S ON

What's App Prayer Group

As we enter a season of reaching out, more and more brothers and sisters are being called to serve both locally and in distant places. As the church family, there are many ways you can support them, and prayer is one of the most significant ones.

If you would like to hear more exciting ministry updates and be intentional in praying for our brothers and sisters, we invite you to join our What's App Prayer and Praise group! Your messages will be promptly shared with our dedicated ministry leaders, and your prayers and support will undoubtedly make a meaningful impact on their lives and ministries. Sign up online - <https://riverlifechurch.churchcenter.com/people/forms/618859>

Prayer Room

The Prayer Room is a space for powerful, life-changing prayers. It is open to all from 7am-8pm Sunday to Friday. Come for some time alone to enjoy special moments with God, or invite your Life Group to join you there.

Girls' Brigade

Girls' Brigade is a fun, engaging way for school-aged girls to be part of a safe community that will assist them in finding enrichment in life, as well as helping them with their journey with God. Runs Tuesday nights during school term from 5.30 - 7pm for Cadets (Prep - Grade 2) and 6.30 - 8.30pm for Juniors, Seniors, Pioneers (Grades 3 - 12). For more info email Company Captain, Jennie Wallace - qldriverlife@girlsbrigade.org.au.



CONTACT US

Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm

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What's On Email

Scan the QR code to sign up to our weekly What's On email.



[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)

☎ @riverlifecyclebaptistchurch

GET CONNECTED

If you are a newcomer to our church we want you to feel at home and part of the Riverlife family. We hope you will give us the opportunity to get to know you. Please fill out this slip and present it at the Info Desk in the foyer for more information on how you can get connected at Riverlife.

Date 22 October 2023

Service 9.00am

5.00pm

Personal Details

Mr Mrs Miss Ms

Surname _____

First Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Age

High School 40s

18-30 years 50s

30s 60+

Date of Birth DD / MM / YYYY

“

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:23-24 (NIV)

Can we help you in any of the following ways?

- Accepting Jesus as my saviour
- Finding a church home
- Being baptised
- Church membership
- Pastoral care
- Life groups
- Children's activities
- Youth activities
- Young adult activities
- International social activities
- Growing in my faith
- Discovering my ministry
- Volunteering
- Other

I was welcomed by

Prayer requests and praise points

- Please send my prayer needs to the prayer chain

NAME

CONTACT NUMBER/EMAIL (OPTIONAL)

WE DESIRE TO BE

A family embracing the Father's presence, releasing empowered people who declare and demonstrate Christ's kingdom

Riverlife
BAPTIST CHURCH