



*“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water.”*

**Revelation 7:17**

**May 13, 2018**

Dripping Springs  
Church of Christ

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*Sunday*  
Bible Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am  
Worship 6:00pm  
*Wednesday*  
Bible Class 7:00pm

# from the **Springs**

## The Lord Who Leaves a Blessing

Jacob Rutledge

I remember as a child I once heard the mother of a close friend describe a difficult situation they were enduring as, “discipline from the Lord.” This struck me as odd. Up to that point, I hadn’t considered how the Lord may actually use difficult circumstances in our life to “discipline us.” For me, the Lord either wasn’t that involved in our daily life or, if he was, it was always for our good. Yet, as we study the Bible, we realize how God uses difficult circumstances for disciplinary purposes (Heb. 12:7-11). This discipline isn’t for everyone, but for legitimate children of God (v. 8). The ultimate end of these struggles isn’t despair but blessing (v. 11). This is why Paul can look at life’s struggles and conclude “for those who love God all things work together for good” (Rom. 8:28). The difficulty comes in remembering this great truth as we endure trials. We witness all of these themes coming together within the book of Joel.

In Joel, the people of God and the land of God are suffering due to sin (Joel 1:6-8, 10, 17-18, 20). Because of this, the worship of the people of God—which was so central to their social and political life—suffered as well (1:9, 13). The source of this suffering came from a terrible swarm of locust which caused devastation and famine in the land (1:4-5). Yet, Joel makes it very

clear that, although this was the Lord’s land, all of this suffering came as an act of His judgment: “The day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes” (Joel 1:15). Some believe the locusts of chapter one is a metaphor for the foreign armies of chapter two (Joel 2:1-3). Either way, the point is made clear: God was acting in judgment against his people for their sin, and the land was suffering for it. The Garden of Eden was made a desolate wasteland (2:3).

What a terrifying thought that the Lord would act in such severe judgment against the people of His heritage (Hos. 3:2). As we read further though, we recognize that these actions aren’t meant for Israel’s extermination but for her redemption:

“‘Yet even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’ Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.”

--Joel 2:12-13

These trials are disciplinary in nature. They are meant to wake Israel up to her sin, so that she will “call a solemn

assembly” in which the nation repents (2:15-16). On the other side of this repentance is a wonderful promise:

“Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?”—Joel 2:14

There is this imagery of God walking through the land of Israel in unrelenting judgment, pouring out his wrath on the people and the land. Yet, once the people repent he leaves a “blessing behind him.” This blessing results in the restoration of relationship and worship of the Lord (“a grain and drink offering for the Lord your God”), as well as the redemption of the land

(2:21-22), and the happiness and satisfaction of the people (2:19, 26). God’s disciplinary judgment is an avenue of unimaginable blessing and restoration. Similar to a father who must at times discipline his children and direct them in the correct path for their happiness and satisfaction, so the Lord sometimes allows/uses struggles in our life to bring us back to Him.

This doesn’t mean that every difficulty you go through is the direct cause of God’s disciplinary purpose. It does mean that we can trust in the inevitable goodness of God’s grace to see us through our darkest hours. It means that, when everything else seems questionable and unstable, we can place our trust in the steadfast love of the

Lord (2:13). What joy and hope there is in knowing that we serve a God who, although at times must discipline His children for their good, ultimately desires to leave “a blessing behind Him.”

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

*Romans 8:28*

### Sermon Outline

#### Baptism 101

- Scripture gives us a definite moment in which we become Christians and we are saved; when man’s \_\_\_\_\_ intersects with God’s grace: \_\_\_\_\_.
- While there is much confusion about baptism, the Bible makes it clear there is only \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:5).
- *Baptism is...*
  1. \_\_\_\_\_ the forgiveness of sins.
    - A. The good news of the gospel is centered on the \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins.
    - B. That is, it is within baptism that you are forgiven, by God’s grace, of your \_\_\_\_\_ sins.
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
    - A. Scripture sees baptism is a great act of \_\_\_\_\_ in God’s great \_\_\_\_\_ (Col. 2:11-12).
    - B. God in His sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ chose baptism as the place as means by which we are saved in faith by grace.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus Christ.
    - A. That is, they were baptized into the \_\_\_\_\_ of, into a relationship with, the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - B. Through this you become a “\_\_\_\_\_” or a follower of Christ—a Christian and a Christian only—this speaks of who owns you.
  4. Unto \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
    - A. It is within baptism that, by the power of God, we are born again of “water and the Spirit” and are \_\_\_\_\_—that is, we are given new life.
    - B. Implies several things:
      - i. \_\_\_\_\_ is a way of the past.
      - ii. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the way of the present.
      - iii. \_\_\_\_\_ is a promise of the \_\_\_\_\_.



# GRADUATION BANQUET TODAY

*Following Evening Worship in Room 101*

## HONORING OUR 2018 SENIORS

We are excited to celebrate their academic accomplishments. We are also looking forward to seeing what God has in store for these good young people.




IZZY ESTRADA  
MEARA MOLENAAR  
COLE SIMONETTI  
JUSTIN WRIGHT




We hope you are able to join us as we come together and spend time with our 2018 Seniors during this special occasion. We will have a sandwich dinner, watch a slide show of our Seniors, and hear their plans they have for the future. We are greatly blessed to have them in our youth group and we will miss them wherever they go!

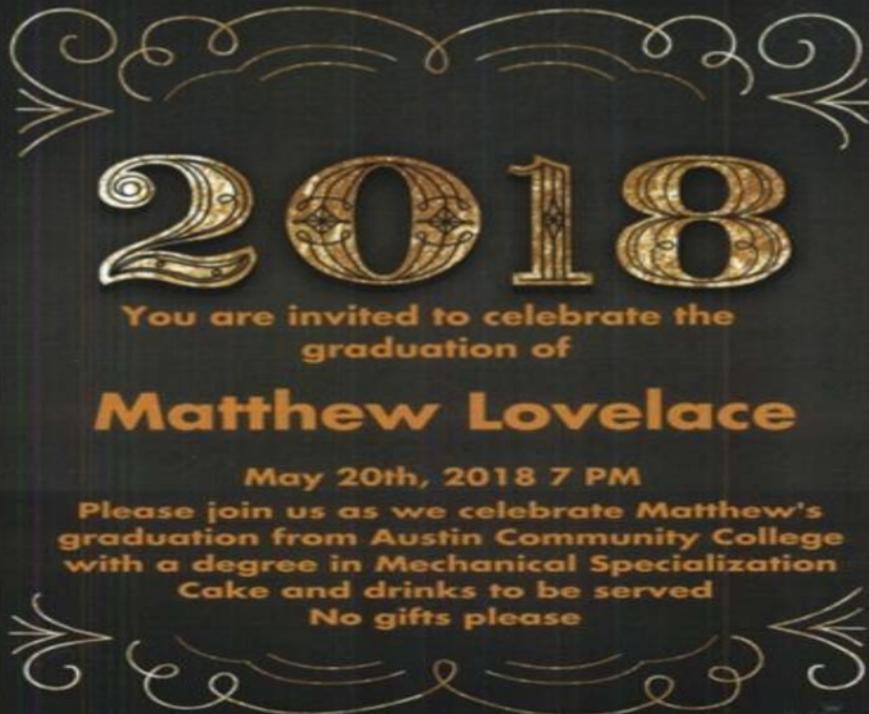


# MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**MAY 15  
7:00PM**

## AT THE HOME OF DAVID LOVELACE

DINNER PROVIDED  
SIGN-UP SHEET IS ON THE BACK TABLE OF THE AUDITORIUM



# 2018

You are invited to celebrate the graduation of

## Matthew Lovelace

May 20th, 2018 7 PM

Please join us as we celebrate Matthew's graduation from Austin Community College with a degree in Mechanical Specialization  
Cake and drinks to be served  
No gifts please

For the Record

Week of Apr 29	
Sunday AM.....	172
Contribution .....	\$12,022
Week of May 6	
Sunday AM.....	170
Contribution .....	\$7,402

- Elders:**
- Tracy Frisinger
  - Bill Hyde
  - Roland Merz
  - Kelly Miller
- Deacons:**
- Randy Banks
  - Stephen Estrada
  - John Gray
  - Damon Hyde
  - Jay Kelsey
  - Winston Kinser
  - Matt Walker
  - Joel Wilkinson
  - Brian Wilks
  - Robert Wright
  - Tim Wright
- Ministers:**
- Steven Akin
  - Jacob Rutledge

- Mission Works
- Joshua Ankiah*  
South Africa
  - Daniel Sackey*  
Liberia, West Africa
  - Peter Chin*  
Four Seas Bible College  
(Singapore)
  - Tom Jackson*  
Lancaster, New Hampshire
  - Life Verlooy*  
Rice Lake, Wisconsin
  - John Moore*  
Bible Passages
  - Troy Spradlin*  
Paraguay Mission Work
  - Hensel Youth Camp
  - Southwest School of Bible Studies
  - World Video Bible School

# Announcements

## Prayer List

### Church Family:

Opaline Bonner, Paul & Lolly Brown, Mary Crumley, Peggy Hinesley, Grady & Janice Moore, Byron Pogue, Frank Simonetti, Norman & Betty Starling

### Shut-ins & Other Needs

Nelawyn Dalley, Tom Hickey, Alene McNair

### HCC Resident

Nancy Wallace

### Lavender Springs Residents

Marvin & Mary Crumley

### Family & Friends of Church Family

Cyndi & Kelly Arbuckle, Pat Balderas, Tom & Judy Barthel, Amanda Dennie, Carye Barker - Dowell, Ray Frisinger, Carol Hiennman, James Gee, Hank Karr, Lura (Stovall) Lyles, Monty & Linda McNair, Gary & Sandra Montgomery, Mary Moore, Edward O'Daniel, Avis Yates Rivers, Andrew Sanchez, Regina Sanchez, Shirley Scott, Mary Sharp, Lisa Shepard, Dennis Tilley, Barbara Valle, Don Walker, Gary Williamson, Tommy Williamson

## New to Prayer List

*Grady Moore* has returned home. Please keep Grady and Janice both in your prayers at this time

*Peggy Hinesley* will have surgery on Wednesday, July 11. Please keep Peggy in your prayers

*Bridget Hurlbut*, friend of Roberta Morris, suffered an aneurism and will be in ICU for two weeks. Bridget is the manager at Hill Country Cottages and brings her children to our VBS

## Announcements

No Fellowship Care Group Meeting Today due to Mother's Day

Today is our 2018 High School Graduation Banquet, following evening worship. We hope you are able to join us as we come together and spend time with our 2018 Seniors during this special occasion. We will have a sandwich dinner, watch a slide show of our Seniors, and hear their plans they have for the future.

Men's Bible Study will be held at the home of David Lovelace this Tuesday, May 15th at 7:00pm. Dinner will be provided. Please see the sign-up list on

the back table of the auditorium.

Ladies' Bible Study host needed for May 22th at 6:30pm. If you would like to volunteer please see Nichole.

## Mark Your Calendars

**TODAY** - Graduation Banquet for our High School Seniors; following evening worship

**May 15** - Men's Bible Study; 7:00pm at the home of David Lovelace (Dinner Provided; see sign-up sheet on the back table of the auditorium)

**May 17** - Good Samaritans; 9:30am in room 101 (all are welcome)

**May 20** - VBS Planning Meeting; 4:30pm in Room 101 for all Teachers, Helpers & anyone who wants to Volunteers

**May 20** - Matthew Lovelace's Graduation Celebration; following evening worship in Room 101 (All are invited)

**May 22** - Ladies' Bible Study; 6:30pm at the home of Melissa Lovelace.

## Youth Calendar

**Youth Singing Class & Dinner** Every Wednesday @ 5:45 Dinner/6:15 Class

**Friends in Faith Dinner** Every Wednesday @ 6:15pm in Room 101

**Prayer & Coffee** (High School) Every Tuesday @ Starbucks 7:45-8:15am with Steven

**Bible Study "Sharpen The Sword"** every Monday @ the home of Steven & Catherine Akin - 6:30pm Followed by Ultimate Frisbee

**TODAY** - Pew Packers (NEW TIME) before evening worship at 5:45pm

**TODAY** - Graduation Banquet; following evening worship

**Jun 10-15** - Camp Hensel

**Jun 25-27** - VBS; Jesus Christ: Chief Hero of Faith

**Jul 8-11** - DSCofC Mission Trip to Arkansas (details to follow)

**Jul 22-27** - Peach Valley Camp

**Aug 3-5** - Discipleship University

## Lesson Titles for Today

A.M.— Baptism 101

P.M.— Reign of Grace Part 11

## Privileged to Serve

### Sunday, May 13

#### Morning

Announcements..... Roland Merz  
Scripture Reading.....To Be Selected  
Song Leader .....Damon Hyde  
Opening Prayer .....Jay Kelsey  
Sermon..... Jacob Rutledge  
Closing Prayer ..... Matthew Walker

#### Evening

Song Leader ..... Wayne Mansur  
Opening Prayer .....Damon Hyde  
Sermon..... Jacob Rutledge  
Closing Prayer ..... Russell Speir

#### Lord's Table

Kelly Miller .....Joel Wilkinson  
Stephen Estrada..... Robert Wright  
Jay Kelsey ..... Darrell Underwood  
Matt Hand ..... Russell Speir

### Wednesday, May 16

Prayers ..... To Be Selected  
Song Leader ..... Roland Merz  
Speaker .....Gavin Valle

### Sunday, May 20

#### Morning

Announcements..... Charles Smith  
Scripture Reading.....To Be Selected  
Song Leader .....Tim Wright  
Opening Prayer ..... Keith Mauck  
Sermon..... Jacob Rutledge  
Closing Prayer ..... Paul Brown

#### Evening

Song Leader ..... Roland Merz  
Opening Prayer ..... David Nuckels  
Sermon..... Jacob Rutledge  
Closing Prayer ..... Don Stafford

#### Ushers

Tim Wright ..... Matthew Walker

#### Building Lockup

Charles Smith ..... Randy Banks

#### Communion Preparation

Darrell Underwood .....Gavin Valle

### Ladies Room 101 Duty

**May:** Doyla Burrell, Phyllis Joiner, Carla Moore, Carolyn Rutherford

**June:** Tara Hyde, Leslie Speir, Jeri Belyea, Marilyn Wilkinson

**July:** Jamie Wright, Bonnie Walker, Diane Williamson, Vikki Fox