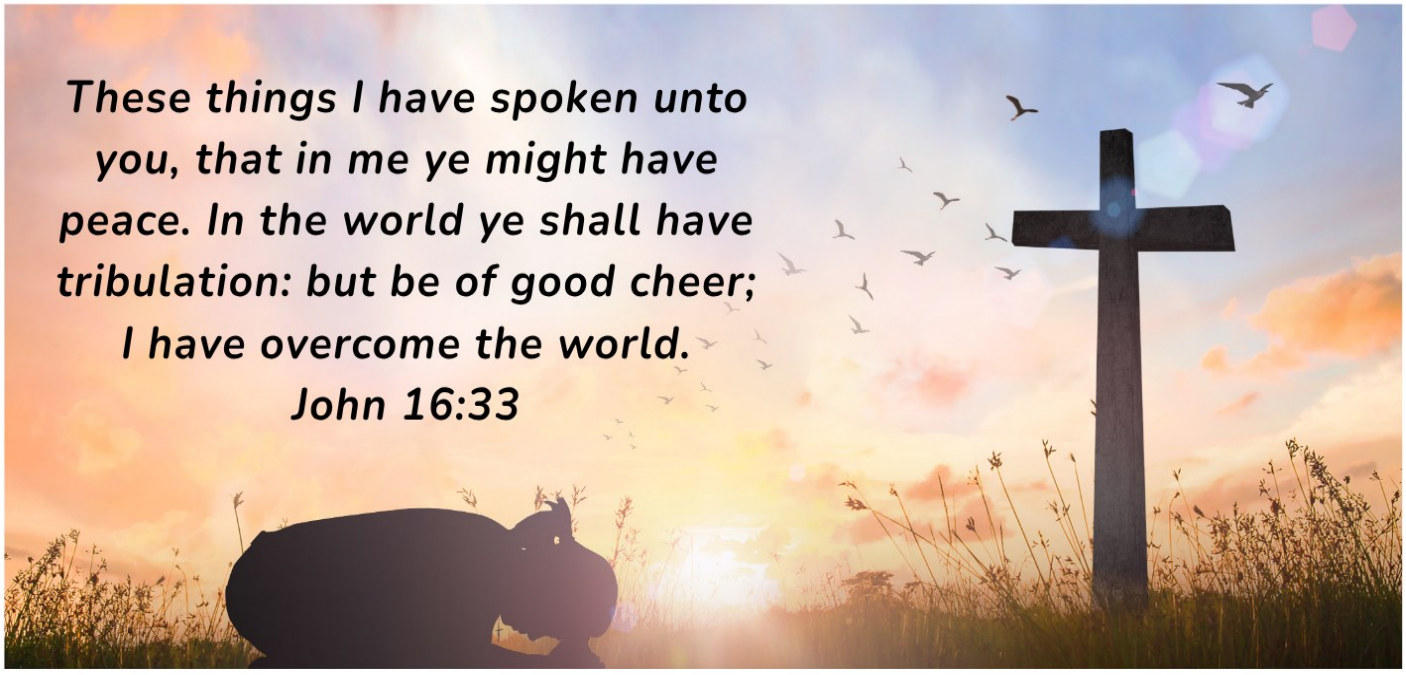
ISSUE 33 | NUMBER 7

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

CHURCH FOCUS

July 2025



Pastor's Message:
LORD, CAN YOU MAKE MY PROBLEMS GO AWAY?

Jesus said, **"in the world you shall have tribulation"** (John 16:33). Have you ever wondered why? *Lord, can't You just make our problems go away?* And then Christ prayed, **"I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil"** (John 17:15). Do you ever wonder why Jesus prayed the way He did? **The answer is: because it is through tribulation that you will grow to be like Him.** Have you forgotten His purpose for you? God wants you to be perfect! And it is through tribulation that is the means to make you so. Paul writes, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and blameless before him.** In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:3-6, emphasis mine).

Do you know what it will take for us to become holy and blameless? A lot more than you and I can ever imagine. How wicked are we to begin with? A lot of us have not had really time to think profoundly about how totally depraved we are! Consider the Word of the Lord: "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil" (Isaiah 1:5b-6). "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). We were completely corrupt! In fact, we were dead in sins and

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This Month at RBC

2	Kid's Night Out begins 7 pm
4	Independence Day *(church office closed)*
6	Communion 10 am
13	Leaders Meeting 5 pm
13-19	Joshua Youth Camp
19	Outreach 9am
27	Ice Cream Fellowship 6 pm



Youth Camp

July 27 - August 2



Independence Day

July 4, 2025

(Church office closed)







Outreach

Come be part of this vital ministry! Join the RBC Evangelistic Outreach team on Saturday, July 19th at 9am and share the Good News!

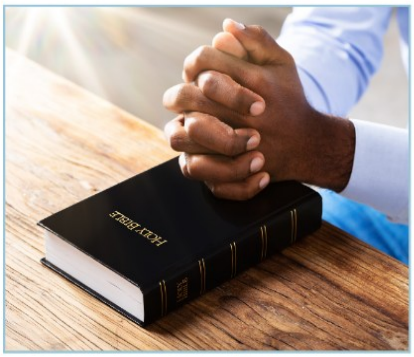
Discipleship Center

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 in Pastor's Study.



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:

Youth Discipleship 7pm
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting 7pm
Kids Night Out 7pm

Thursdays:

Men's & Women's Bible Study on Summer Break

Three Ways to Give

At Church Online By Mail

RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

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(951) 687-6106
www.RBCSoCal.com
Pastor: Christian Torres

HOMEBUILDERS

Perspectives On Patriotism

While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.

Tips For Gardeners

"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year," said evangelist Billy Graham. "It brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul." Without summer, our gardens would disappoint, and without love, our hearts wouldn't bloom.

The warmth of summer and love aren't the only ingredients required for abundant physical and spiritual crops, however. Discernment and persistence ensure fruitful yields in both areas. "Unless we know the difference between flowers and weeds, we are not fit to take care of a garden," advised Clyde Francis Lytle. "It is not enough to have truth planted in our minds. We must learn and labor to keep the ground clear of thorns and briars, follies and perversities, which have a wicked propensity to choke the word of life."

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Lord, Can You Make My Problems Go Away?

(Continued from front page)

trespasses! Stiff. No life. Walking dead. But the Spirit of the living God breathed life into us so that in an instant and almost simultaneously we repented and believed the good news of Christ's death, burial, resurrection and everlasting life! Look: "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4-5).

Moreover, have you looked inward lately? Your spirit, which has been made alive by the Spirit, still wars against your flesh, right? Paul testifies, "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me" (Romans 7:18-20). What will it take for us to become holy and blameless when inwardly we still struggle with doing right? The Lord says, "in the world you shall have tribulation." It is the tribulation that God uses to purify us. When we overcome tribulation, we come nearer towards holiness and blamelessness. That's why James said, "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:4-5). Wonderful!

So, why did the Lord Jesus, our big Brother pray the way He did? *Lord, can You make my problems go away?* No. Because it is through tribulation that you and I, His little brothers and sisters, become holy and blameless before God our Father. Oh, joy!

With Sincere Love In Christ,



Christian Torres
Pastor-Teacher