

**March 8, 2015
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Mickey Chandler

Song Leader

J C Newby

Scripture Reading

Chase Chapman

Opening Prayer

Barrett Chapman (A.M.) Ricky Cissom (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Jeff Staggs (A.M.) Logan Yancey (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Tom Wade (Presiding),

Larry Wood, Andy Reese, Eric Melton

Count and Usher

Mike Criswell

Rickey Loveless

Prepare Communion

Connie & Bryana Davis

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Mason McAlister (03/11/15)

OUR RECORD

March 1, 2015

Sunday Bible Study: 117

Sunday Morning Worship: 136

Sunday Evening Worship: 109

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 92

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$4,273

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. **Hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17).
2. **Believe** the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16).
3. **Repent** of Sins (Acts 3:19).
4. **Confess** Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37).
5. **Be Baptized** for Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38).
6. **Be Faithful** (Revelation 2:10).

CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
250 COUNTY ROAD 550
RIPLEY, MS 38663
Address Service Requested

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Chapman Church of Christ
Ripley, Mississippi
(662) 837-7012
chapmanchurch.com

ELDERS: Barrett Chapman, Jodie Criswell,
Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade
DEACONS: Terry Chapman, Bryan Davis,
Rickey Loveless, Brad McAlister,
Joel Moore, Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood
PREACHER: Mark Lindley

Check How You Look in the Mirror

Dan Jenkins

It happens to Americans every day of their lives. Few of us like the way we look the first time we see ourselves each day in the mirror, so it is not long before we begin making changes to our appearance. Usually, before we leave the house, we take a final look in the mirror hoping that we look presentable and acceptable to others.

James describes the Bible as a mirror. "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was" (Jas. 1:23-24). It is remarkable how God uses the simplest aspects of our lives to illustrate truth. To look into His mirror, the Bible, and to see our spiritual needs and do nothing about them just does not make sense. It is even more foolish than that person who looks into a regular mirror, sees something which destroys his appearance and then walks away forgetting what the mirror showed him.

Paul describes the Bible as a mirror with the power to change you. "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18). These words are much like the words from James, but Paul sees that person as spending time looking into the mirror, but not seeing just self. He looks into the mirror and sees Jesus in His radiant glory. The present tense of "being transformed" indicates an ongoing process. He does not just see the Lord once, and then he is immediately and completely changed. He sees the Lord. He spends time gazing at Him. The glory of the Lord becomes his standard, and he is being changed into the very image of the Christ.

David, while not using the imagery of a mirror, describes the same action. "Blessed is the man . . . (who) delights in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psa. 1:1-2). Have you ever considered what made David's heart be like the heart of God? He turned to the law of God and meditated on it day and night, and that transformed his heart. Looking into God's mirror will change the heart of all men.

Consider some "mirror rules" for those seeking to change their appearance. We must come to our mirror, His word, with an open, sincere heart and see His image clearly. We must come with a determination to change the flaws we see in ourselves in that mirror. We must spend time seeing the glory of the One in the mirror, mediate on what we see and then change our lives to become like that One. We need to think often about this, knowing that it takes time to become just like Him.

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I Have No Excuse by Gene Taylor

I knew it was happening. I felt bad about it. I was gaining weight. I had lost some 55 pounds a little over a year and a half ago and now I had put back on about 20 of it. Others were noticing too. Some, being kind, didn't say anything. Others gently asked things like "Are you putting on just a little weight?" No one seemed to want to come out and say what needed to be said, "You should stop overeating, change your diet and habits and lose the pounds you have gained back. It's not good for you to be heavy." Many reasons could be given for my weight problem but my brother probably stated it best when he said, "I like to eat." I do too. But I know I should not eat as much as I do and I also know the things I like the best are not good for me. I didn't just need to change my habits temporarily. I needed to make a permanent change. Yet, I resisted such a change. Rather, I sought to excuse the fact that the weight was coming back on me. And believe me, I could find many excuses.

I would measure myself against others instead of comparing my weight to the proper medical standard. "I'm a little overweight but I'm sure not as heavy as him." It seems we can always find someone who is worse off than us.

I would minimize the problem. "It's not so bad. Yes, my clothes are a little tighter but you can expect that as you grow older. Everybody puts on a little weight as they age."

I was sincerely adhering to a false standard. I thought the scales in my bathroom were properly calibrated to give an accurate weight. I was wrong. They were weighing seven pounds light.

Food gives me a lot of pleasure. Anything that tastes that good can't be too bad.

In reality, I just lacked the will power to change.

But I did change. And, along with my wife's help, I have lost most of the pounds I had regained. It hasn't been easy but it has been worth all the sacrifices I made.

You might, at this point, be wondering why I am sharing all of this. Believe me, it's not because I'm on some kind of ego trip. Rather, there is meaning to all that I have said so far when you apply the same attitudes and reasoning toward sin.

Many people deal with sin the same way I dealt with getting fat.

They dismiss it by measuring themselves against others. They will say things like, "I'm really not all that bad. I'm a much better person than he is and he claims to be religious." The apostle Paul said that this was not a good practice. "For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise" (2 Cor. 10:12).

They minimize sin. They think that it is not as bad as it really is. That is part of the deceitful nature of sin (Heb. 3:13). Judas did not think that sin was as bad as it was. In the end, he took his own life because he was not able to deal with the sin he had committed.

They, with sincerity of heart, adhere to false standards. They measure their righteousness by the standards and creeds of men. They may be honestly mistaken but they are still mistaken. It is not enough to have a zeal for righteousness. You must submit to the true righteousness of the Lord.

There is some pleasure to be derived from sin (Heb. 11:25) but it is short-lived and in the end you must pay for it. The joy derived from being and doing right is everlasting. It is far better to set your mind on things that are above (Col. 3:1-4) and change your thinking to enjoy good things, not to enjoy sin.

Many lack the will power to refrain from sinning. That power is available from Christ. You can do it with His help (Phil. 4:13). As He drew power from the word of God when He was tempted (Matt. 4:1-11), you can tap its reservoir of strength to resist temptation and overcome sin (See 1 Cor. 10:13).

Someone needs to tell those who are in sin that they need to stop sinning. They need to change their habits and desires. They need to repent. If we truly love them, we will seek to get them to do something about their sin problem.

There is no good reason for me to be fat. There is no good reason for you to be in sin. If sin is a problem to you, don't try to rationalize it, minimize it or explain it away. Rather, confess it, then repent of it and seek God's forgiveness. Your spiritual health will improve dramatically.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK'S SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS

Every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

LADS TO LEADERS

Bible Bowl Practice: Every Sunday at 4:45 p.m.

Golden Living Devotional/Singing: March 8th at 2 PM

CHAPMAN GOSPEL MEETING:

March 15th-18th
Speaker: Lance Foster

NEW COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

We are in the process of setting up a new communication program for text and email alerts. This will help keep everybody informed of deaths, events, updates, etc. Please update your information - List in foyer.

PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: chapmanchurch.com
Articles • **Sermons (Audio)** • **Chapman Challengers**
The Bible Broadcast
Sunday Mornings at 8 AM • **WKZU radio 104.9 FM**
Southern Sentinel Article
Every other Wednesday

Correspondence Course
Study the Bible in your home, at your convenience,
by enrolling in a free Bible correspondence course.
To enroll: call (837-7012), write (250 CR 550,
Ripley, MS 38663) or e-mail
(chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net).

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

• **SICK SUNDAY:** Mickey Chandler, Doss & Jeff Brewer, Ina Ruth, Gearlene Cissom, Kristen Bridges

• **IN HOSPITAL:** Christine Chapman

• **HAVING SURGERY:** Phylliss Christian (Gallbladder)

• **HOME FROM HOSPITAL-RECOVERING:** Janie Jumper, Tony Morrison, Deborah Gullick (604 West Main, Blue Mountain, MS 38610)

• **EXTENDED ILLNESS:**

Taylor Crawford, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford's Sister), Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Grady Chandler (Athens, AL, Mickey's Father), Beverly Koon, Renae Koon, Glen Moore (Joel's Brother), Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman, Christopher Pruitt.
• **CANCER:** Deborah Gullick (Mother of Stephanie McAlister, Bo & Brian Chapman), Sam Warrington (cystic fibrosis & leukemia), Eva Crawford, Elaine Mauney, Bob Shelton, Sue Mauney, Wade Hodges, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Grey Roberson, Merida Bane (Barrett & Starrett Chapman's Sister), William Thrasher, Donna Daniel (Clint Stroupe's Mother), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Ann Bennett, John Tiesney, Danny Edmonds, Dean McNutt, John Reno, Ruth Greer

• **SHUT-INS:** *Resthaven:* Oleta Phillips (*Mailing: Resthaven Care Center, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663*), *Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home:* Bonnie Chapman, Lorene Willis, Geraldine Benefield, Christine Chapman: not doing well (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*)

*Please notify Karen Yancey
(chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)
of any updates to the prayer list.