

**March 29, 2015
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Mickey Chandler

Song Leader

Chris Moore

Scripture Reading

Gene Yancey

Opening Prayer

J C Newby (A.M.) Young Men (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Johnny Cissom (A.M.) Young Men (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

Barrett Chapman (04/01/15)

OUR RECORD

March 22, 2015

Sunday Bible Study: 119

Sunday Morning Worship: 144

Sunday Evening Worship: 106

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 121

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$4,159

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

Also can view on our website:

chapmanchurch.com

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
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THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Ripley, Mississippi
(662) 837-7012
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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

GOD'S WAITING ONES

Mark Lindley

Waiting on God is one of the greatest challenges in living the Christian life. Isaiah, an Old Testament prophet to Judah, attempted to encourage God's people to wait on God. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Isaiah wrote these words before the people of Judah were taken into captivity. However, God knew there would come a time when His people, being held in Babylonian captivity, would need the encouragement to "wait upon the Lord." We can only imagine how Isaiah's words must have served as a source of strength and encouragement as the people of Judah waited for God to provide deliverance from captivity. Isaiah's words also comfort and encourage God's people today to "wait."

What does it mean to "wait upon the Lord?" It means to rely on the Lord; to trust Him; to anticipate His divine help. How difficult it is to "wait" when one is afraid, lonely, or grieving the loss of a loved one! Facing such emotions, one wants a quick fix, something to immediately alleviate one's problems. The last thing one would want to do is to "wait."

When the psalmist was facing turbulent times, he decided that it was best to "be still" (Psalm 46:10a). To "be still" or to "wait" upon the Lord does not mean that one is inactive. It does mean, however, that one is trusting God, not oneself, to provide strength and guidance.

Observe the blessings God imparts to His waiting ones: "they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." At first glance, it may appear that the ideas of this verse should be re-arranged. Why does Isaiah mention flying, then running, and then walking? If an uninspired person were writing this verse, he might write about walking first, then running, and then flying. But Isaiah's order is right because it is inspired. Perhaps, the order of the ideas suggests that there are times when God's people feel they are soaring as an eagle over all temptations and problems. Then, there are times when Christians are running the Christian race with patience (Hebrews 12:1-2). More often, however, God's people must simply "walk" in faith, waiting upon the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:7).

It is the daily "walking"—not the soaring or running—that takes such great faith and patience! But look at the promise: Those who "walk," waiting upon the Lord, will not faint! Why not? God will renew their strength. What a wonderful, inspiring promise for God's waiting ones!

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Keep On Inviting, Inviting, Inviting, And Inviting Mike Riley

The story is told of a young girl by the name of Becky who, each Sunday morning and Wednesday night, would go next door to invite her good friend Denise to church services. Becky's question was simple: "Can Denise come to church services with us today?" Most of the time the answer was, "Yes," and so the visits and invitations continued.

However, the day came when something was different. Becky made her Sunday morning journey next door, but the answer was, "No." However, the words that followed were music to her ears: "No," the father answered, "Denise will be going with me and her mother this morning — We will see you at worship, Miss Becky."

The family visited, studies followed, and Denise's mother and father were baptized into Christ! (Gal. 3:27 – NKJV).

We might ask, "What is the magic, the mystery, the awe in this simple story?" The answer is, there is none! Just a sincere invitation given over and over and over again! Many times, we make things much too complicated and in doing so, achieve very little.

Some want sophisticated mail-outs to do the job of winning souls to Christ for us. Some believe that carefully designed programs will do it for us. Some want others to do it for us. Please understand this point: The benefits of mail-outs and other media avenues are wonderful when wisely used. But nothing dismisses our own personal responsibility to invite folks.

Who should we invite? Anyone we associate with on a daily basis — Our neighbor, postman, doctor, boss, banker, mechanic, coach, teacher, friend, relative, co-worker, and on and on we could go (cf. Matthew 22:9-10 – NKJV).

Remember the story about Jesus freeing the man who had legions of evil spirits? (Mark 5:1-20 – NKJV; Luke 8:26-39 – NKJV). He was grateful for Jesus' compassion and wanted to go with Jesus (Mark 5:18 – NKJV). However, Jesus refused his request saying:

"Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you" (Mark 5:19 – NKJV).

Brethren, let's go and do the exact same thing!

Are You In It For The Long Haul Edd Sterchi

A very interesting word occurs in a familiar Bible passage that helps us to understand something of our Christian lives upon the earth. The passage is Hebrews 12:1-2 and the word is the word translated "race."

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:1-2 NKJV)

The Greek word for "race" is the word "agon" from which we get the English word "agony." This reveals quite a bit about the race we are to run for Christ.

First we can see that the Christian race is a marathon, not a sprint. It is a race that lasts our whole lives upon the earth. Paul ran this race to the very end. He finished the course Christ set for him. That is why he could write, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7). We must not give up the Christian race but make sure we endure to the end (Matt. 10:22). It is not the order of our finishing it that is important, it is simply a matter of finishing it. If I were ever to run a 26 mile marathon, simply finishing would be victory. And so it is with everyone who endures and finishes the Christian race.

Secondly, we can see that the Christian race is agonizing at times. We need to remember that God has not promised an always smooth journey, but He has promised a safe one. The Christian life is a battle at times. It is not always easy. There are often many difficulties accompanied with it. It is often grueling and there are many temptations to quit. And, sad to say, many do bow out. But the victor's crown only comes at the finish. We are guaranteed that all the pain is worth it. "But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you" (1 Pet. 5:10). "Blessed is the man who endures...for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him" (Jas. 1:12).

So don't give up – keep running the race – the finish line's in sight.

UPCOMING EVENTS

5th Sunday/March 29th:
Fellowship meal (potluck) after
morning services. Evening Service
at 1:30 p.m conducted by
Chapman young men.

March 29, 2015
MARK'S SUNDAY EVENING
BIBLE CLASS 4:30 PM
&
BIBLE BOWL PRACTICE 4:45 PM
WILL NOT MEET

APRIL 3RD-5TH
LADS TO LEADERS CONVENTION
Memphis, TN
**Good Luck to all of our
participants!**

PROGRAMS OF WORK
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To enroll: call (837-7012), write (250 CR 550,
Ripley, MS 38663) or e-mail
(chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net).

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Barbara Criswell

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Taylor Crawford (Le Bonheur)

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

•**MILITARY:** David Spires

•**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, Brandon King, 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, Lorene Daily, Geraldine Benefield, Christine Chapman, Pauline McBryde (Rita Smith's Grandmother) (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.