

**April 12, 2015  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Announcements**

J C Newby

**Song Leader**

Chris Moore

**Scripture Reading**

Jeff Staggs

**Opening Prayer**

Jeff Brewer (A.M.) Tommy Wade (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Jodie Criswell (A.M.) Michiel Criswell (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

David Smith (Presiding),

Eli Carter, Britt Lindley, Jack Harris

**Count and Usher**

Chase Chapman

Eric Melton

**Prepare Communion**

Rita Smith & Lauren Carter

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Mason McAlister (04/15/15)

**OUR RECORD**

**April 5, 2015**

Sunday Bible Study: 114

Sunday Morning Worship: 132

Sunday Evening Worship: 93

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 104

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,889

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

[chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)

Also can view on our website:

[chapmanchurch.com](http://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

Published Weekly by  
**Chapman Church of Christ**  
Ripley, Mississippi  
(662) 837-7012  
[chapmanchurch.com](http://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

## “PROVE ALL THINGS” Mark Lindley

The words above are recorded in 1 Thessalonians 5:21: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” The word *prove* means “to test, examine, prove, scrutinize, to see whether a thing is genuine or not” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). In matters of doctrine, then, God has placed the obligation upon all Christians to prove their beliefs and practices. This verse sets forth two vital points:

First, the command to “prove all things” implies that there is a standard by which things can be proved. The standard is God’s Word.

Observe Acts 17:11: “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” Note that the people “searched the scriptures.” Why? The answer is stated in the verse: to see “whether those things were so.” They realized that religious doctrines and practices should not be “verified” by family tradition, opinions, what “the preacher said,” or feelings, but by God’s Word, the Scriptures.

Second, the command to “prove all things” implies that doctrines can be proved to be right or wrong. There is the popular notion today that two people may hold conflicting, opposing views; yet, both views are correct. “After all,” some say, “you have your interpretation and I have mine.” Though the notion that “everyone has the right to his own interpretation” is popular, it will not stand in light of what the Bible teaches. The command to “prove all things” suggests that in matters of doctrine, one may “prove” a doctrine to be right or wrong. Therefore, Truth is not determined by one’s personal, subjective interpretation. One’s interpretation of a verse (or verses) may be wrong.

Friend, when it comes to religious beliefs and practices, can you “prove” yours by the Bible? Since the apostle Paul instructed Christians to “prove all things,” we cannot afford to do otherwise. Don’t rely on what fallible men may say. Prove all things by God’s Word.

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## Coal or Diamonds?

T. Pierce Brown

It is generally understood that coal and diamonds consist of the same basic carbon compounds. The difference is said to be that the diamonds are formed under conditions of extreme heat and pressure for some period of time. This suggests a principle which we find in the Bible and in our own experience.

James says it this way, "Count it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have its perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). In my own years of growing up in poverty and hardship, going barefooted in the snow and having nothing to eat except popcorn balls or hominy for several days, I am aware that hardships and testings of various kinds may be valuable in helping to form character. However, I have discovered another truth, perhaps of equal value. The wind that causes one tree to be stronger and have deeper roots may uproot and destroy another. The difficulties, adversities and tests that help to make one person strong may break another. What is the difference?

It seems apparent that one of the things that make a difference is what was there in the first place. If you do not have certain qualities present in the raw material, the end result will not be the same. The things that caused Pharaoh to harden his heart might well have caused a person who had any respect for Jehovah to soften and repent. The same sun that shines on a stick of butter, causing it to melt will shine upon a piece of clay and cause it to grow hard.

If, by God's grace, you have learned to love God, all things, including hardships, testings, pressure, difficulty, disaster, danger or death will work for your good (Romans 8:28). If not, they may well be your downfall. Whether the pressures of life and the heat of battle cause you to be a diamond or merely a lump of coal depends to a large degree on what was there before those pressures and heat were applied. Our primary concern should be to make sure that loving God and glorifying Him are more important than anything else in our lives.

Jesus and Paul taught that the righteous shall suffer persecution, and that we are blessed when we suffer for the sake of righteousness. It is possible, however, for us to suffer rebuke or alienation because of our bullheaded, obstinate, hateful attitudes, or self-righteous, opinionated, arrogant assumptions and responses. In our blindness, we may then whine and complain because everyone else is wrong and we and Jesus stand alone against the rest of the world. Whether you turn out to be coal or diamonds may well depend on what you were before the pressure and heat were turned on.

Please join us for a  
bridal shower honoring

*Kristen Bridges*

Sunday, April 12th  
2:00 to 3:30 - Come & Go

Chapman Church of Christ  
Fellowship Hall

Kristen is registered at  
Walmart and BED BATH & BEYOND  
Colors: Aqua Blue and Neutrals

### The Value Of A Smile

A smile is nature's best antidote for discouragement. It brings rest to the weary, sunshine to those who are sad, and hope to those who are hopeless and defeated.

A smile is so valuable that it can't be bought, begged, borrowed, or taken away against our will. You have to be willing to give a smile away before it can do anyone else any good.

So if someone is too tired or grumpy to flash you a smile, let him have one of yours anyway. Nobody needs a smile as much as the person who has none to give.

Selected (via "The Sower," Arthur Church of Christ, Arthur, IL; Ron Bartanen, editor)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Congratulations**  
to all of our 2015 Lads To  
Leaders/Leaderettes  
participants! You are to be  
commended on a great job.  
We appreciate all of your  
hard work and are very  
proud of you!

### MARK'S SUNDAY EVENING

BIBLE CLASS 4:30 PM

*Will Not Meet - April 12th*

*Mark will be out of town for a Gospel Meeting*

### CHAPMAN SPRING BRING

April 26, 2015

### PROGRAMS OF WORK

**Website: [chapmanchurch.com](http://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](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)).**

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY:** Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Brad Wood (*Larry Wood's Nephew's son*) and Beverly Koon.

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Ricky Cissom

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Deborah Gullick (New Albany), Taylor Crawford (Le Bonheur), Jane Childs (Tupelo)

•**HOME FROM HOSPITAL-RECOVERING:** Tony Morrison

•**HAVING TEST:** Randal Hancock (Dawn Stroupe's Father)

•**MILITARY:** David Spires

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:**

Taylor Crawford, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford's Sister), Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Grady Chandler (Athens, AL, Mickey's Father), 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](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net))  
of any updates to the prayer list.