

**May 10, 2015
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Brad McAlister

Song Leader

Jodie Criswell

Scripture Reading

Britt Lindley

Opening Prayer

Tom Wade (A.M.) Bryan Davis (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Jarvene Shackelford (A.M.) Starrett Chapman (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Mickey Chandler (Presiding),

Mason McAlister, Brock Lindley, Casey Harris

Count and Usher

Andy Reese

Logan Yancey

Prepare Communion

Jill and Hannah Loveless

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Brad McAlister (05/10/15)

OUR RECORD

May 3, 2015

Sunday Bible Study: 131

Sunday Morning Worship: 143

Sunday Evening Worship: 158

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 106

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$4,127

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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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

DO NOT WAIT FOR THE KINGDOM By Mark Lindley

A few weeks ago a couple of nice gentlemen associated with a religious denomination knocked at my door. After introducing themselves, they got to the point they wanted to discuss: the kingdom of Christ. They insisted that the kingdom would soon be established. It was a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning, and I had plans for the day. Nevertheless, I invited the men in and asked them if they would be willing to listen as I shared biblical information about the kingdom. I then set forth the following thoughts:

First, Jesus taught, roughly 2,000 years ago, that the kingdom was then "at hand" (Matthew 4:17). The term "at hand" means "to draw nigh, approach, or to be near." Therefore, the kingdom was "near" when Jesus was here on earth, about 2,000 years ago.

Second, Jesus promised that some who lived during the days of the first century would see the establishment of the kingdom. He said: "Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power" (Mark 9:1). If Christians of our day are still waiting for the kingdom to come, then Jesus' prediction failed. He predicted that some who lived during the first century would see the kingdom established. Did they? Or was Jesus wrong? Surely, no one would accuse Jesus of being wrong about His prediction.

Third, Jesus identified the kingdom as the church: "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19). The church Jesus would build is identified in this text as the kingdom. This shows that the Lord's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom.

Fourth, the church has already been established; therefore, the kingdom (which is the church) is already in existence, and it has been since the time of Acts chapter 2 when the church was established. Paul wrote to the church: "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Colossians 1:13). First century church members had already been "translated" into the kingdom, because the kingdom is the church.

Friend, Jesus is not coming to set up a kingdom in Jerusalem and reign for a thousand years on a literal throne. This is false doctrine. The Bible does not teach such. Rather, the Bible teaches that the kingdom of Christ is spiritual—it is the church!

I do not believe the kind gentlemen accepted these biblical facts, but rejecting teachings of the New Testament does not change the truth. Please accept the truth of God's Word!

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**A Consuming Fire or Just
“The Man Behind The Curtain?”
by Steve Higginbotham**

“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God” (Deuteronomy 4:24). In spite of this truth, Israel disrespected God. They treated God as though he were muzzled, tamed, or even docile. To Israel, God was manageable and could be manipulated to their own advantage. There was no sense of awe, no reverent fear, and no trepidation when they came into his presence.

No better illustration of how they had trivialized God is seen in the life of King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 26:1-23). Uzziah was a very successful King with God’s help, but his success went to his head. Pride filled his heart, and his pride grew, there was less and less a place for God in his heart. Consequently, Uzziah presumed to violate God’s command, enter the temple, and assume the rights that belonged only to the priests. No less than eighty men attempted to stop him, but he had so marginalized God and puffed himself up, that he presumptuously disobeyed and paid a terrible price. He was like the occasional tourist who thinks Panda bears are so cute and safe that he ignores the warnings, reaches his hand through the bars to pet them, only to learn too late, that these bears are wild and untamed.

If there was a single message of which the church needs to be reminded today, in my judgment, it would be that God is a consuming fire; a jealous God! Too many people have trivialized God. When some hear his “thunderings,” they pay no mind as though these “thunderings” originate from the “innocuous little man behind the curtain.”

I believe if we could get “God” right, most of our problems would disappear. If we would stop treating God as though he were tame and able to be manipulated, we wouldn’t presume to change his commandments. Our problems today are really not “the role of women in the church,” “the necessity of baptism for salvation,” or “instrumental music in worship;” rather our problem is more singular. We have failed to emphasize and consequently have forgotten that God is a consuming fire!

How else do we explain that when we gather to worship, instead of hearing gasps of “awe,” we sometimes hear “yawns of boredom?” Instead of God being a consuming fire having the power to refine and even destroy, we have reduced him to a safe, flickering candle that barely provides illumination. We have allowed the familiarity of “sonship” to breed contempt and presumptuousness toward God and his commands.

Friends, God is so much more than “the little man behind the curtain.” He’s more than just a man with a deep, thundering voice (Numbers 23:19). He can’t be manipulated. He can’t be marginalized. He can’t be tamed. And he can’t be put in a box of our making. He isn’t manageable. God is God. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and omnibenevolent. In spite of revealing himself to us, he remains a mystery. Consequently, we should worship and obey him with awe, caution, and reverent fear. “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable” (Psalm 145:3).

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to everyone who worked on the cemetery last Saturday. It looks great!

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

*Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let
her own works praise her in the gates
(Proverbs 31:31).*

MARK’S SUNDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS - 4:30 PM

CHAPMAN LADIES BIBLE CLASS

May 21, 2015
At 6:30 PM

5th Sunday/May 31st:

Fellowship meal (potluck) after morning services. Evening Service at 1:30 p.m. conducted by Chapman young men.

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

IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of William Thrasher.

•**HOME SICK:** Jordan Staggs

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Deborah Gullick (Tippah County Hospital/Rehab), Terry Jumper (Tupelo)

•**MILITARY:** David Spires

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:**

Taylor Crawford, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford’s Sister), Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), 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), Don Allen Riggs, Sam Warrington (cystic fibrosis & leukemia), Rodney Hilliard, 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)