

**September 6, 2015
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Chris Moore

Song Leader

Dalton Beard

Scripture Reading

Ricky Cissom

Opening Prayer

Jodie Criswell (A.M.) Blair Chapman (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Johnny Cissom (A.M.) Mickey Chandler (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Joel Moore (Presiding),

Eli Carter, Evan Yancey, Ross Shackelford

Count and Usher

Bobby Bridges

Jeff Brewer

Prepare Communion

Kathy Moore & Shelia Criswell

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Ross Shackelford (09/09/15)

OUR RECORD

August 30, 2015

Sunday Bible Study: 120

Sunday Morning Worship: 140

Sunday Evening Worship: 107

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 97

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,966

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
250 COUNTY ROAD 550
RIPLEY, MS 38663
Address Service Requested

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

Published Weekly by
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

Weaknesses

Sam Willcut

Do you know your weaknesses?

Life is tough. Temptations are difficult. It goes without saying that Satan, the great tempter, knows our weaknesses, for he knows that "... all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Yet, just as he knew that Jesus had fasted for forty days and nights and immediately hit Him with his first temptation to attack Him there, he knows our greatest weaknesses and hits us there. We do not like to think about our weaknesses—we accentuate our strengths and diminish our weaknesses. In a certain sense, this is not a bad thing; it is only human of us to do so. However, the difference is whether we are diminishing our weaknesses publicly while striving to deal with them, overcome and solve them, or whether we are simply hiding them while privately reveling in them. Consider how the Bible describes our weaknesses. What is your forbidden fruit? The weakness for Eve was that fruit: "And when [Eve] saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat..." (Gen. 3:6). For her, it became a tremendous temptation.

What is your forbidden fruit? Is it cigarettes? Is it alcohol? Is it money? Is it cars? What is your forbidden fruit? Where is your Sodom and Gomorrah? When Lot and Abraham separated, Lot saw the well-watered plains of the Jordan River Valley and moved his family "in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom" (Gen. 13:12). Yet, the very next verse states, "But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly" (Gen. 13:13). Later, God told Abraham of what he would do to the cities of Sodom. Knowing that his nephew lived there, he pleaded with God to spare them if he could find ten righteous souls. Yet, it was to no avail. As Genesis 19 describes, Lot and his family fled from their home before God destroyed those wicked cities with fire and brimstone. By inspiration, Peter commented,

For if God...spared not the old world... and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly, and delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished. (2 Pet. 2:4-9)

Where is your Sodom and Gomorrah? Is it the casinos? Is the bar to meet singles? Is it your girlfriend's bedroom or the back of your car in a dimly lit area? Where is your Sodom and Gomorrah?

Who is your Goliath? We all remember him—in First Samuel 17, he was the champion of the Philistines that harassed the Israelites every morning and every night. In fact, he would not give up—he did so for forty days (1 Sam. 17:16). He was relentless. He was merciless. He struck fear in them all, including the mighty king, Saul—the one who stood head and shoulders above all other Israelites (1 Sam. 9:2). Among the enemies of God, there was no one more ruthless. He was a thorn in their side until a young boy named David came with complete faith and trust in God and killed him. Who is your Goliath? Is it your spouse who abuses you mentally and berates you emotionally? Is it your coworker who laughs at you because you are a Christian and ignores your feelings with crude language? Who is your Goliath?

Therefore, you may need to avoid some things (forbidden fruit). You may need to avoid some places (Sodom and Gomorrah). You may need to avoid some people (Goliath). The prayer that ought to be on our lips is the one Jesus taught us: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matt. 6:13).

An Old Story Too Often Repeated
by Gene Taylor

The story is an old one. I have heard it many times. Others who preach have also heard it often. Yet, whenever I am confronted with it, it is still disheartening. I wish I could harden myself to it -- but I simply cannot.

It was related to me again recently and, I have to tell you, it put me in a funk. The story? The man on the phone was a Christian. It seems he had attended services and Bible classes as a youth. His parents had taught him the Truth and made sure he was present whenever the church assembled. As a youth his tender heart was touched by the gospel and he obeyed it. He was eager to serve the Lord and grow closer to him. But, sadly, soon that enthusiasm waned. As he grew older as a teen and then a young adult, the pleasures of this world enticed him and, as Demas, he forsook the Lord because he developed a love for this present world (2 Tim. 4:10).

While in apostasy, he married and started a family. A son came along. A son whom he loved and who was his pride and joy. A son upon whom he rained blessings and gifts. There was nothing he would not give or do for him. Nothing, that is, except what his parents had done for him -- "bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

The voice on the phone was breaking with emotion. The man paused, collected himself, and then continued with his story.

After his son had finished college and went out on his own, he said his mother, the son's grandmother, became ill and needed special care. She moved in with her son so he could attend to her needs. She, in spite of her infirmities, was determined to remain faithful to the Lord. She asked her son to take her to the services of the local church. He did. Worried about her well-being while there, he decided that instead of just taking her, he would go with her to make sure she would be all right. Surely, he thought, he could endure it for her sake.

He felt uncomfortable sitting there. Yes, he had sat in pews many times but that had been long ago. He had not frequented a church building since before he was married. Yet, in a strange way, there was a familiarity and a feeling of belonging. At each service he grew more interested in what was going on, more comfortable with his surroundings but more uncomfortable with himself. He finally realized he needed to come back to the Lord. He, to the surprise and joy of his elderly mother, answered the invitation and, with tears, penitently told the preacher how sorry he was for his years of neglect. Prayer was offered and he was restored to his Lord and Savior.

How wonderful he felt. "How great to get my life back on track," he thought. He sensed a peace that he had not experienced in years.

He now attended services with glee. He avariciously read his Bible daily. He started telling everyone about what he had done, how it had made him feel and how they could have that same joy and peace that he was experiencing. He told his son what had happened and invited him to come to services.

But the son would have nothing to do with it. He had his own life now. He had the responsibilities of job and family and he had neither time for nor interest in such things. His father was heartbroken. He repeatedly tried to get his son interested in his spirituality all to no avail. Finally his son let him know very plainly that he did not want to discuss the matter again.

So that is why his father called me. His son lives in our city and he thought maybe, just maybe, I might be able to do what he could not -- get his son to listen to his need for the gospel and Christ.

I am always happy for opportunities to relate the gospel to people but sometimes I know, even before I talk to them, my efforts will be, if not futile, at least difficult. I had patiently listened to this man relate his story and pour out his heart to me. I took his son's name and address and told him I would contact him and invite him to services. I took the man's phone number so that I could call him back and tell him what had transpired with his son. But, sadly, I already knew what would happen.

The father was already so low I did not want to add to his sadness. Also, it seemed that I was, at least in his mind, his last hope and I did not want to dash what little hope he had. But I knew that the years when his son could have been easily touched by the gospel were past. They were the formative years when he was under his father's control when his father neglected to teach him the ways of the Lord and set a proper example before him. Yes, the gospel still has its power to convert but not in a heart that is hardened to it or in a person who sees no need for it.

The father still loves his son very much. He continually prays that his son will see the need to obey Christ but every day he faces the reality that the chances of that happening grow slimmer. And, in anguish, he realizes he must share the blame because of his neglect. Yes, the Lord has forgiven his sins but he lives daily with the consequences of those sins. And he agonizes over the lost opportunities he had to teach his son as his godly parents had taught him.

Parents, remember that when you sin and when you neglect your service as Christians, you are impacting the lives of your children. Do not let your neglect contribute to your children being lost. Live up to your God-given duty and properly train your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Do not let this sad story be repeated in the story of your life.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 6, 2015

Chapman Singing:
Tippah County Hospital
Nursing Home at 2 PM
&
Visitation Group:
Will NOT meet Sunday Night

Golden Living Singing
September 13th - 2:00 PM

Chapman Ladies Bible Class
September 17th - 6:30 PM

Pine Vale Children's Home
Fall Food Drive:

Items requested:

Pickles Chili Beans Deodorant
Please place items in the kitchen by classrooms.
Will be picked up the first week of October.

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:** Tony Morrison, Lyndon Beard, Debbie Chapman, Ruth Harris, Kyson Harris

•**SURGERY:** Karen Yancey (4th - Saint Francis, Bartlett), Freida Hurt (4th)

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Erik Longoria (Le Bonheur), Connie Mauney (Tupelo), Geneva Oliver (Red Bay, AL - Rehab. - Car Accident - Brent Townsend's Grandmother), Jimmy Dale Downs (Tupelo), Bettye Melton (Tippah County Nursing Home Rehab.)

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Shelby Cissom, Erik Longoria, Randall Hancock (Liver & Kidney Transplant - Dawn Stroupe's Father), Taylor Crawford, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford's Sister), Tony Morrison, Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Renae Koon, Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman. •**CANCER:** Lorie Christian, Yater Shinall, Deborah Gullick (Mother of Stephanie McAlister, Bo & Brian Chapman), Don Allen Riggs, Sam Camp, 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), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Ann Bennett, John Tiesney, Danny Edmonds, Dean McNutt, John Reno, Ruth Greer, Margie James.

•**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, Christine Chapman, Pauline McBryde (Rita Smith's Grandmother) (Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663).