

**December 2, 2015  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Announcements**

Kevin Shackelford

**Song Leader**

Dalton Beard

**Scripture Reading**

Ricky Cissom

**Opening Prayer**

Blair Chapman (A.M.) Gene Yancey (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

David Palmer (A.M.) Danny Shackelford (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Terry Chapman (Presiding),

Britt Lindley, Andy Reese, Bobby Bridges

**Count and Usher**

Chance Criswell

Ross Shackelford

**Prepare Communion**

Myra and Anna Palmer

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Chris Moore (12/09/15)

**OUR RECORD**

**November 29-, 2015**

Sunday Bible Study: 113

Sunday Morning Worship: 137

Sunday Evening Worship: 112

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 114

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,384

**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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RIPLEY, MS 38663  
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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, Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade  
DEACONS: Terry Chapman, Bryan Davis, Rickey Loveless, Brad McAlister, Joel Moore, Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood  
PREACHER: Mark Lindley

## FIVE EXHORTATIONS FOR CHRISTIANS Mark Lindley

“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity” (I Corinthians 16:13-14). This is a powerful passage of Scripture, containing five practical exhortations for Christians.

1. “Watch ye.” This is encouragement to be alert, and to guard oneself against temptation, false doctrines, and other things which might challenge one’s faith. Christians have an enemy who is seeking to destroy. The enemy is Satan: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8). If one fails to keep his/her guard up, one might fall into sin, away from the Lord (cf. I Corinthians 10:12).

2. “Stand fast in the faith.” The word “stand” means “to be stationary.” The phrase, “in the faith,” refers to the teachings of the New Testament. The exhortation is for Christians to believe, obey and to “stand” in the Gospel. The Lord is not pleased with one who is spiritually hot one day and cold the next, one who is “straddling the fence,” trying to be friends with God and the world at the same time. Spiritual stability is the thing Paul is encouraging.
3. “Quit you like men.” This admonition literally means to “show oneself to be a man.” One of the virtues that might be admired in a man is bravery. It takes bravery to be a faithful Christian. There is pressure from the world to do what is popular instead of what is right. Cowardice is disgraceful and will cause some to be lost (Revelation 21:8).
4. “Be strong.” This is obviously not a reference to physical strength, but to spiritual strength. One’s spiritual strength is proportionate to one’s degree of faith. The stronger one’s faith, the stronger one will be in living for the Lord. The Scriptures teach that faith comes by hearing God’s Word (Romans 10:17). It follows, therefore, that in order to “be strong,” we must study and apply God’s Word to our lives because the Word produces faith.
5. “Let all your things be done with charity.” The word “charity,” in the King James translation, means “love.” Christians must have a deep and abiding love for the Lord and for one another. Without love, the other exhortations would be meaningless. Determine that you will follow these exhortations. These simple exhortations will help Christians to be faithful to the Lord, and to be saved eternally in heaven.

**Please Come Home!**  
**Noel Merideth**

A few people who will read this have quit attending church services. It is possible that they were once faithful and active members, but for one reason or another they have ceased to attend. They no longer serve the Lord or support the church in any active way.

Perhaps you yourself are one of that number. If so, you probably tell yourself that eventually you will get started back to church - that someday you will renew your commitment to worship and serve the Lord actively. But meanwhile, you remain away from the church and out of touch with God. To all in this condition, we send a plea from the heart to "Please, come home!" Come back to God, to a Savior who loves you, to brothers and sisters in Christ who miss you and care deeply for you!" You need to come back for the following reasons:

**Your Condition Is a Matter of Grave Concern to God.** Jesus pictured a shepherd whose concern for a sheep away from the fold caused him to leave 99 sheep in the wilderness and go out and painstakingly search for the one which was missing (Luke 15:4). This is a picture of God's concern for those who are away from Him!

**You Are Depriving Yourself of Spiritual Health.** The failure to worship and serve God results in the shriveling of the soul! Your spiritual nature cannot survive if you do not feed it. Your absence from church diminishes and weakens you!

**Your Talents and Abilities Are Being Wasted.** Jesus taught that we have all been given the opportunity and ability to serve God in some way (Matt. 2 5:14-15). So much more good could be done in the world if all would use their talents as God desires. When you fail to do your part as a member of God's work force, then the cause of Christ suffers. You are needed!

**You Are Letting Your Influence Work Against God, the Truth, and the Church.** Although you do not intend it to, your example says to all who observe your life that the church is not important and that God may safely be ignored. It is especially tragic that those who read this message in your example are often your own children and grandchildren!

**Others Need You and You Need Them.** We need the mutual encouragement of one another in living the Christian life. By your absence from church, you deprive others of the encouragement you could give them and you deprive yourself of the strength which they could share with you!

**Your Separation from God May Become a Permanent One.** Life is uncertain. We have no guarantee of what the future holds. Though you intend to come back to the Lord, you may wait too long or life may end too soon. The emphasis of the Bible is always upon now (2 Cor. 6:2). The future is too uncertain to risk your soul on it!

**Forgiveness – Without Repentance?**

Children of God should love all men, even their enemies, and when they repent, forgive them. Occasionally, I am asked if it is our duty to forgive those who sin against us when they neither ask for nor desire forgiveness. It is not only not our duty to do so, were we so disposed, but it is an utter impossibility.

The question recurs because many people persist in disregarding what the Scriptures teach is involved in genuine repentance and by substituting their concept of what they feel forgiveness should include. Those who do this imply, whether they intend to or not, that forgiveness is simply the cancellation of all bitter, revengeful, and uncharitable feelings toward those who sin against us, and the substitution of a disposition of kindness, love, and warm regard for the offending one or ones - a disposition, they urge, which should always be characteristic of faithful Christians.

But many devoted and dedicated disciples of the Lord never experience bitter, revengeful, and uncharitable feelings toward those who sin against them, however cruel and heartless such actions may have been. This attitude of a kind disposition is not forgiveness, anyway. God never entertains "bitter, revengeful, and uncharitable" feelings toward even the most vile of sinners, but He forgives only those who repent.

Our Lord, in the shadows of Gethsemane, prayed for those who hated him so much they sought and obtained His execution, but He did not forgive them until they repented. Amid the agonies of the cross, He said to His Father, "Forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34) a petition not unconditional in nature, since by His own words first uttered in the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-16) and later applied by Peter it was His intent that pardon be bestowed only on the basis of repentance and obedience to the commandments He gave (Acts 2:36-38).

The words "remission" and "forgiveness" often translate to the same Greek word *aphesis*, the meaning of which is "release," the "sending of sins away" and the consequent restoration of the peaceful, cordial, and friendly relationship formerly existing. Unless the offender wants this "peaceful, cordial, friendly" relationship, it is impossible for the offended to affect it, however much he may desire and seek it.

It is at this point people often say, "Yes, but we must be ready to forgive always," as indeed we ought, but it should be recognized that such readiness is not forgiveness. Our Lord made crystal clear our obligation in all such cases when He said, "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him." (Luke 17:3-4). Thus, the divine edict is, if one sins against us, we are to rebuke him; and when he repents, we are to forgive him.

It is the duty of all children of God to love all men, even their enemies, actively to seek their good, and pray for their well-being; and, when they repent, to forgive them. It should ever be borne in mind that reconciliation is an integral and essential element of the relationship resulting from penitence on the part of the offender and forgiveness on the part of the offended, and that it is occasioned by an adjustment and settlement of all differences that led to the alienation. We must be sure that no action or attitude of ours deters the proper response of others to us because our fellowship here on Earth and our salvation in Heaven hereafter are matters intimately involved.

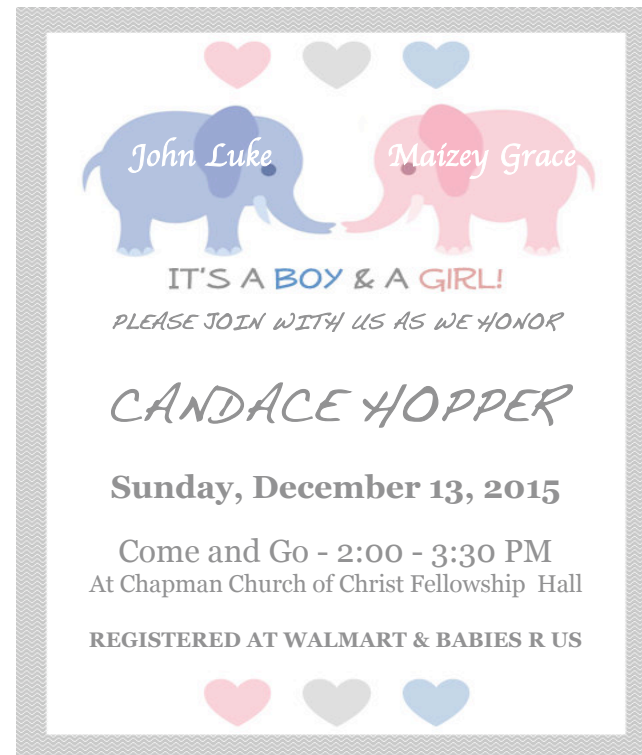
Guy N. Woods, Adapted from the Gospel Advocate,

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**December 6, 2015**

**Chapman Singing:**  
Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home at 2 PM

**Visitation Group:**  
Will not meet



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**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Wayne Vandygriff, Terry Jumper, Keith Newby, Ina Ruth Harris

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Taylor Crawford (Atlanta/Heart Transplant), Larry Kennedy (Kidney Transplant)

•**HOME RECOVERING :**Sandy Newby

•**HAVING TEST:**Shawna Jones, Brenda Shackelford

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Connie Mauney, 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), Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.

•**CANCER:** Grady Chandler, Lorie Christian, Yater Shinal, Deborah Gullick (Mother of Stephanie McAlister, Bo & Brian Chapman), Doug Pannell, Don Allen Riggs (19, student at FU from El Paso, TX), has stage 3 cancer. Cards may be sent to Target House 1, 1811 Poplar Ave, Apt. 211, Memphis, TN 38104), Sam Camp, Sam Warrington (cystic fibrosis & leukemia), Rodney Hilliard, 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, 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*).