

**December 21, 2014
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Jarvene Shackelford

Song Leader

J C Newby

Scripture Reading

Mason McAlister

Opening Prayer

Brad McAlister (A.M.) Barrett Chapman (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

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

Lord's Table

Terry Chapman (Presiding),

Andy Reese, Logan Yancey, Britt Lindley

Count and Usher

Chance Criswell & Eric Melton

Prepare Communion

Angela & Kristen Bridges

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Johnny Cissom (12/24/14)

OUR RECORD

December 14, 2014

Sunday Bible Study: 116

Sunday Morning Worship: 128

Sunday Evening Worship: 110

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 106

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$4,025

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

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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(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 WITH US"
Mark Lindley

During the holiday season many reflect on the birth of Christ. Biblically, there is no precedent to celebrate December 25 as the birth of Christ because the Scriptures are silent about Jesus' date of birth. Nevertheless, the Scriptures are not silent regarding His birth, and Christians should rejoice always that a Savior was born.

The birth of Christ was predicted by Isaiah the prophet. Hundreds of years after the prophecy had been made, Jesus was born. Matthew, inspired writer of the New Testament, affirmed that the birth of Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy: "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matthew 1:22-23). Notice that His name would be called "Emmanuel," which means "God with us." What a comforting thought—God with us!

It is very fitting that Jesus be referred to by a name that means "God with us" because Jesus Himself claimed to be deity, God in flesh. He said, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30); and, "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). Those who saw Jesus saw God (cf. John 20:28).

How can one be sure that Jesus' claim is true? Just imagine for a moment that God had determined to come to earth and manifest Himself to us. How might He accomplish this? Since God, by definition, is all-powerful, the Creator of all things, it is reasonable to assume that if He were born into the world, His birth would not be a normal birth. Suppose He decided to be born of a virgin. Would a virgin birth not arrest our attention and indicate that the one who is born is, in fact, not an ordinary person?

This is precisely what happened roughly two thousand years ago when Jesus was born. His miraculous entrance into the world helps to establish His claim of being divine. A miraculous entrance into the world is exactly what we would expect, if God came to earth. We might also expect other miracles, wonders, and signs if God came to earth. Jesus healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, walked on water, calmed storms, and raised the dead. He not only claimed to be deity, but He also proved His claim.

It is true—Jesus was "God with us." He is worthy of our trust, obedience, and life-long service. Follow him today!

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PSALM 100

1. (A Psalm of praise.) Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
2. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
3. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
5. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

What does Love your enemies mean? Bob Prichard

The watchword of Christianity is love. As Jesus prepared His disciples for His departure, He said, A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:34-35).

The love required of Christians goes beyond loving one another, however. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust (Matthew 5:43-45). Jesus knew He was saying something radical. He knew that the world's standard was and is to love our neighbors and hate our enemies. Jesus wants more of His followers, however.

Striving to be like their Heavenly Father Who lovingly sends blessings to the just and the unjust, Christians must love their enemies. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:46-48). Loving our enemies is part of the Christian's growth toward perfection.

We may not like our enemies, but we must love them. To truly love someone else is to want the best for them. Love is unselfish, concerned with what the other person, even an enemy, needs. Christ demonstrated His love for enemies: God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Rather than harboring a grudge against us because of our sin, Christ loved us enough to suffer the cross, the Just dying for the unjust. Love for enemies includes having a forgiving attitude toward those who have wronged us. Peter thought he was being generous in asking the Lord if it was good enough to forgive his brother seven times (most rabbis taught forgiving three times was sufficient). Jesus answered, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven (Matthew 18:22). He then explained His statement with a parable about a king and some creditors, to remind His followers that because God has forgiven us, we must forgive others. Jesus said that the love of enemies includes praying for them, blessing them, and doing good to them. Christ emphasized what the Christian does, not what the enemy does. While we cannot control how our enemies live or act, we can control how we act. We must apply the Golden Rule: Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets (Matthew 7:12). Loving our enemies is possible only when we surrender our will to the will of Christ, and let Him control our lives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special thanks to those who helped on the Pinevale Children's Home ~ Child's Christmas. Because of you we were able to get everything on her wish list. She greatly appreciated every gift. Also thanks to those who attended the Pinevale Holiday Party.

HOLIDAY SERVICES:

The Wednesday Night Bible Study for December 24th and 31st will be moved to Monday night - the 22nd and 29th. Same time - 7:00PM

CHAPMAN FOURTH QUARTER BIRTHDAYS (October, November & December)

The Lads to Leaders would like to invite those who have a birthday in the Fourth Quarter of 2014 to stay after church services Sunday Night- **December 28th** for cake and ice cream for you and your family in the Fellowship Hall. Please make plans to attend.

PROGRAMS OF WORK

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:** Gearlene Cissom, Audrey Box, Everett Hurt, Brandi Reese, Eric Longoria, Ella Shackelford

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Tony Morrison (Tupelo), Sam Warrington (Son of Ryan and Pam Warrington) in Children's Hospital of Birmingham -cystic fibrosis and is very sick right now. Westin Walker (Son of Tyler & Allie Walker) in Children's Hospital of Birmingham - new born.

•**HAVING SURGERY:** Sharon Pannell, Brandon King

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Tina Emerson, Hackleburg, AL (Mother-in-law of Jessica Moore Emerson).

•EXTENDED ILLNESS:

Ronnie Massey (Heart Problems), Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Glen Moore (Joel's Brother), Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman. •**CANCER:** *Eva Crawford, Elaine Mauney, David Barkley (Kelly Brewer's Uncle), Yater Shinall (Dawn Jackson's Father), Bob Shelton, Sue Mauney, Wade Hodges, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Grey Roberson, Merida Bane (Barrett & Starrett Chapman's Sister), Beth Kuykendall, William Thrasher, Donna Daniel (Clint Stroupe's Mother), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Rhonda Shannon, 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:* Lorene Willis, Geraldine Benefield, Christine Chapman, Billie Floyd (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.