

January 14, 2024

**Announcements**  
Danny Shackelford

**Song Leader**  
Logan Yancey

**Scripture Reading**  
Bo Chapman

**Opening Prayer**  
Bobby Bridges (A.M.)  
Kevin Shackelford (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**  
John Hopper (A.M.)  
Luke Hobson (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**  
Keith Newby

**Count and Usher**  
Rickey Loveless & Jimmy Vandygriff

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**  
Ross Shackelford (01/17/24)

### OUR RECORD

**January 7, 2023**

Sunday Bible Study: 89  
Sunday Morning Worship: 101  
Sunday Evening Worship: 86  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 86

### BULLETIN BY E-MAIL

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:  
office.chapmanchurch@gmail.com

[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  
250 COUNTY ROAD 550  
RIPLEY, MS 38663

# THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

**Published Weekly by**  
**Chapman Church of Christ**  
**Ripley, Mississippi**  
**(662) 502-2806**  
[chapmanchurch.com](http://chapmanchurch.com)

**ELDERS:** Terry Chapman, Brad McAlister,  
Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade

**DEACONS:** Bryan Davis, John Hopper,  
Rickey Loveless, Chris Moore, Kevin  
Shackelford, Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood

**PREACHER:** Mark Lindley

**"ABOVE ALL THAT WE ASK OR THINK"**  
Mark Lindley

In the closing verses of Ephesians chapter 3 Paul pays a great tribute to God. He wrote, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21). Observe from this passage that God is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." God's infinite power and wisdom enable God to do things which are far beyond man's limited ability to "ask or think." Man's most complex thoughts and requests pale into insignificance when compared to God's ways and thoughts (cf. Isaiah 55:8-9).

Paul makes it clear in Ephesians chapter 3 that God's desire to save sinners is above all that we might ask or think. Paul described himself as one who was "less than the least of all saints" (Ephesians 3:8). Paul described himself in this manner because he had once been a fierce persecutor of the church (Acts 8:3). However, because God is full of grace and mercy, Paul, the "chief of sinners" (I Timothy 1:15) was forgiven. The Good News is that if God saved the "chief of sinners," then He will surely save all today who turn to Him for salvation. No matter how black or hideous the sin, God loves all and is willing to save all (II Peter 3:9).

In addition, God's eternal plan to establish His church is above all that we might ask or think. Paul affirms that God's matchless wisdom is seen in His "eternal purpose" for the church (Ephesians 3:10-11). It boggles the mind to meditate upon the fact that the purpose for the church is as eternal as God Himself. Long before God ever said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3), long before God ever spoke the world into existence (Psalm 33:9), God had determined that there would be a church. Make no mistake—the church of the Lord is not an afterthought; it is not a substitute for the kingdom, which some in our day affirm; it is not "plan B"; rather, it is "plan A." Those who obey the Gospel are added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:47). What a wonderful blessing to connect to God's eternal plan by being a member of the glorious blood-bought institution known as the church (Acts 20:28).

Further, the amazing love of Christ is above all that we might ask or think. Paul wrote, "And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). What amazing, boundless love Jesus demonstrated when He gave Himself for the sins of the world! "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). It is this love that should inspire us all to obey the Gospel, to be faithful to Christ, and to serve Him all the days of our lives! Indeed, these things are above all that we might ask or think!

**GOD'S PLEA, PLACE AND  
PLAN FOR UNITY**  
Dennis Gullede

The word "unity" is rare in the Bible, but the idea of unity fills the scriptures. Unity exists among the members of the divine Godhead. Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" (Jn. 10:30). Unity exists in marriage that allows a husband and wife to become "one flesh" (Matt. 19:5-6). The "unity of the faith" in Paul's day was the coming together of the New Testament canon (Eph. 4:13). The "perfect man" would be the same as "that which is perfect" (1 Cor. 13:10). Unity in faith and practice is supposed to exist among Christians. Paul said, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgement" (1 Cor. 1:10). Jesus established only one church (Mt. 16:18). The Jerusalem church was of "one heart and one soul" (Acts 4:32).

There are at least two ways to appreciate the value of unity among God's people. First, is to consider the Scriptural statements relative to the value of such (Psa. 133:1; Jn. 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:3). Unity is God's plan for his people, and his alone. Protestant denominations did not exist when these statements were made, and these passages are not properly applied to them. Denominations reflect a digressive development that occurred long after the church was established. This development was foretold by inspired writers (2 Thes. 2:2-4; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1ff). The above statements on unity were made to the Lord's congregations.

A second way to appreciate the value of unity is to observe the sad reality of religious division within a congregation. Conflict, strife and division sap the energies and life out of a congregation. The Devil must laugh with glee when brethren are expending their energies in constant confrontation. Ira North once said that, in his early years as a gospel preacher, he thought that it took a congregation about 50 years to get over a "first class church fuss." In his later years he decided that a congregation never really gets over a tragic fuss and split. I believe that brother North was correct. Division destroys the "temple of God" (1 Cor. 3:16-17). Divided congregations cause weak and unstable brethren to sometimes desert the Lord's cause.

In John 17 Jesus offered a prayer for his church that he had promised to build and which he would sanctify with his own blood. He prayed for himself (Vss. 1-8), his contemporary disciples (Vss. 9-19), and for future followers (Vss. 20-21). Some think Jesus was praying for the unity of believers in heaven. There will be unity in heaven, no doubt, however, this is a unity that will make an impact on the world. This is the reason the Lord prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (Vs. 21). Others think Jesus was speaking of unity of heart, not so much of external demonstration. Why would external unity not be a priority? Lip service without life-service is actually no service! If people are united in heart it will show in life (Prov. 4:23).

**"WAKE UP?"**

Dalton Key

Those unfortunate souls who meander through life caring about nothing are at least consistently predictable: they do nothing, accomplish nothing, receive nothing, and - saddest of all - amount to nothing. They are the dead weight dragging down any church, business, or society. And worse still, their complacency is contagious.

Even the tiniest seed of indifference has power to produce a bitter harvest of stagnation and decay. Robert Hutchins, the respected American educator, once predicted, "The death of a democracy is not likely to be an assassination by ambush. It will be slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment."

And what is true for governments is no less true of churches.

Consider the first-century congregation at Laodicea, a church which, at least on the surface, appeared to have no problems. This church smugly boasted, "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing." In reality, they were "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Revelation 3:17.)

**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**

*Remember count your blessings,  
pray for our lost ones, the sick, the  
world and the broken-hearted.*

**SICK SUNDAY:** Chase Chapman Family, Danny & Brenda Shackelford, Wayne & Dala Vandygriff, Kirstin & Sailor Fitzgerald, Jane Morrison, Everett Hurt, Lamar Criswell

**REHAB:** Juan Stroupe, Wilma Wood (TCH/Rehab)

**HOSPITAL:** Hannah Jones (ICU-Tupelo)

**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Joanie Kate Reese, Everett Hurt, Olivia Pounders, Garrison Coats, Joe Clark, George Doss, Thad Berryman, John Walker Perry, Juanita Michael

**CANCER:)** Dorothy Hopper (John's Mother) Billy McBryde (Rita Smith's Father), George Doss (Kelly Brewer's Father), Deborah Williams (Kim Lindley's Aunt), Ralph Shaw (Janie Chapman's Son-in-law), Loxlee Eaton, David South, Eddie Mauney, Haley Loveless, Sidra Davis, Trish Clark, Kevin Clifton, Austin Wentz, Betty Faye Ledbury

**SHUT-INS: *Tippah County Health & Rehab:*** Romia Palmer, Jimmy Berryman, Peggy Davis, Joe Clark

**TEXT ALERTS**

Text **chapmancoc** to **8779897012** to receive Chapman's Text Alerts.

**Sermons available on  
Facebook and YouTube**