

March 12, 2023

**Announcements**  
Kevin Shackelford

**Song Leader**  
Keith Newby

**Scripture Reading**  
Luke Hobson

**Opening Prayer**  
James Pilgrim (A.M.)  
David Smith (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**  
Brock Lindley (A.M.)  
Gene Yancey (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**  
Ricky Loveless

**Count and Usher**  
Michiel Criswell & Bryan Davis

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**  
Brock Lindley (03/15/23)

### OUR RECORD

**March 5, 2023**

Sunday Bible Study: 99  
Sunday Morning Worship: 112  
Sunday Evening Worship 78  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 89

### BULLETIN BY E-MAIL

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:  
chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

[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

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**(662) 837-7012**  
[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

### THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM

Mark Lindley

The purpose of water baptism is a controversial topic. Nearly every church practices some form of water baptism. However, there is sharp disagreement about the “purpose” of baptism. Some believe and teach that one should be baptized as “an outward sign of an inward grace.” In other words, some maintain that baptism is a way of expressing, publicly, one’s commitment to Christ. According to this view, one is to be baptized “because” he has been saved.

On the other hand, there are those who believe and teach that one must be baptized to be saved. According to this view, baptism is the final step a sinner must take to receive God’s forgiveness. If this view is correct, then a sinner is not saved “until” he is baptized.

One this is certain: both views cannot be correct. If baptism is necessary for salvation, then a sinner cannot be saved before baptism. Which of these views is supported with scripture?

Before considering what scripture teaches, please note what the question is “not.” The question is not, “How were people saved in the Old Testament?” The question is not: “Did Jesus, during his earthly ministry, ever save anyone directly and personally (such as the thief on the cross)?” The question is not: “Is salvation by faith?” The answer is “yes”; many verses prove that salvation is by faith (Acts 10:43; Rom.5:1). However, “no” verse teaches that salvation is by faith “alone.”

The real question is this: Must sinners, today, be baptized to receive forgiveness of sins? Let the Bible speak: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16); “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16); “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (I Peter 3:21). “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

These passages clearly express the purpose of baptism, according to God’s Word. Baptism is not something one does “because” he is saved. It is something one does “to be saved.”

Friend, please don’t follow tradition or the doctrines of man. Many will refuse to see the truth, but you don’t have to follow along with them. If you will receive and obey truth, God will save you now and eternally!

## The Abundant Life

By Sam Willcutt

Only one person would dare say the following words:

*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd. [John 10:9-16]*

What is the abundant life about which Jesus teaches in John 10:10? Is it the vibrant, spiritual life that Christians are now living? As Christians, it is true that we can have abundant lives under the grace of God: "And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ" (Rom. 15:29).

Nevertheless, did not people live full, satisfying lives before Jesus came? Consider Abel (Heb. 11:4). While his life would not be quantitative, it certainly was qualitative. Consider Enoch (Heb. 11:5).

According to Genesis 5:21, he lived 65 full years, and then after Methuselah, his son, was born, he lived another three hundred years on this earth. Consider Abraham (Heb. 11:8-19). Moses recorded his death in Genesis 25:8: "Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people" (Gen. 25:8). In other words, the Bible concludes that he lived a full life! In fact, he is the only one that the Bible lists as "the friend of God" (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; James 2:23).

Therefore, what did Jesus mean? Was He simply talking about resurrection? No, I do not believe that He was, because resurrections had already taken place. In First Kings 17, Elijah raised the son of the widow of Zarephath back to life, and in Second Kings 4, Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman back to life.

In fact, people back in those days knew something better was coming in the future. Although all these lived full, abundant lives, they knew there was something better (Heb. 11:32-35). Jesus came to bring a better resurrection!

First, the prophets resurrected those two boys with the same body they had before; Jesus is going to do better than that (1 Cor. 15:42-57). This is the better resurrection that Jesus came to bring. In ways unexplainable, I will look like Him (Psa. 17:15; Phil. 3:20-21). All I do know is that I am looking for that better resurrection!

Second, their resurrection was temporary—they had to die again (Lazarus and others included—John 11:43-44; Matt. 27:51-53). This is not what Jesus came to bring (2 Tim. 1:10; Rom. 6:9; Rev. 1:17-18).

Therefore, Jesus came to bring the abundant life in two ways. First, He will get me out of this fleshly life and give me a life that will never end. Second, He will get me out of sin into a full, satisfying life in Him! Thanks be unto God for this abundant life!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### *GOSPEL MEETING*

**MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>ND</sup>**

Sunday meal following AM service.

PM Service at 1:30 PM

### BEECH HILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### Area Wide Singing Night

March 26th at 5:30 PM



#### *A Plea For Prayers*

*Please pray for spiritual and numerical growth for the Chapman Congregation in 2023.*

#### TEXT ALERTS

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

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY:** Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of James Jackson (Dawn's Brother-in-law).

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

**SICK SUNDAY:** Bo Chapman

**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Larry Wood, Angela Bridges, Wayne Vandygriff, Karen Yancey

**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Theo Smith, Joanie Kate Reese, Loxlee Eaton (6-yr old, Chris Lewellen's Granddaughter), Olivia Pounders, Joe Clark, Louise Pannell (Sharon's Mother), Malone Hurt, Gerohn Childs, Junior Derrick, Jane Morrison, George Doss, Thad Berryman, Hannah Perry & Baby, Juanita Michael

**CANCER:** Billy McBryde, George Doss (Kelly Brewer's Father), Deborah Williams (Kim Lindley's Aunt), Ralph Shaw (Janie Chapman's Son-in-law), Eddie Mauney, Haley Loveless, Sidra Davis, Trish Clark, Johnnie Carpenter, Kevin Clifton, Austin Wentz, Steve Barnes (Mickey & Gail Chandler's Son-in-law), Betty Faye Ledbury

**SHUT-INS:** *Tippah County Health & Rehab:* Romia Palmer #204, Jimmy Berryman, Peggy Davis *Resthaven:* Johnnie Carpenter