

**March 27, 2016
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Randell Koon

Song Leader

Johnny Cissom

Scripture Reading

Jordan Staggs

Opening Prayer

Terry Chapman (A.M.) Wayne Vandygriff (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Danny Shackelford (A.M.) Blair Chapman (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Andy Reese (Presiding),

Logan Yancey, Gene Yancey, Larry Wood

Count and Usher

Bobby Bridges

Rickey Loveless

Prepare Communion

Rita Smith & Lauren Carter

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Jack Harris (03/30/16)

OUR RECORD

March 20, 2016

Sunday Bible Study: 113

Sunday Morning Worship: 135

Sunday Evening Worship: 138

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 100

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,672

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
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RIPLEY, MS 38663
Address Service Requested

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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(662) 837-7012
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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

“THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN TO ME” Mark Lindley

I suppose I was a bit gullible in thinking it would never happen to me. I had heard of fishermen falling out of boats and had witnessed it, but I never thought it would happen to me. Why? Well, it would never happen to me because I was always “careful” when fishing from a boat, and “paid attention” to what I was doing.

Then, two weeks ago, March 12, my middle son, Brock, and I were fishing on beautiful Pickwick Lake. We had not been fishing very long when I noticed that the back of our boat was about to make contact with a green, lake buoy (there are many of these in the lake). I leaned over the edge of the boat to push against the buoy so that the boat would not bump against it

I suppose I leaned over too much, lost my balance, and, you guessed it—down into the frigid water I went! I went all the way under the water, and then popped back up like a cork. It must have been a sight for my son to see. The cold water nearly took my breath away, but between gasps for air I managed to tell him to “pull me out.” He grabbed my arms and snatched me from the water, quickly pulling me over the side of the boat. No harm was done. I just had to wear wet clothes the rest of the afternoon.

I told this story to make a point: we never know what a day will bring! “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Proverbs 27:1). James wrote, “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that” (James 4:13-15).

It is for this reason that we should always be ready for death; ready to meet God; ready for judgment. It seems that everyone “plans” to make their lives right with God “someday.” Many have plans to “get started back to church” sometime. Many have plans to give up a sinful way of life. Many intend to give up drinking and adultery. Many have plans to obey the Gospel and to get involved in the work of the church. But planning it is not the same as doing it.

Notice this warning from Scripture: “To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts” (Hebrews 3:7-8). The only day we have is today, and “today is the day of salvation” (II Corinthians 6:2). Don’t put off making your life right with God.

For 47 years, I never fell out of a fishing boat. Things that we never dream will happen often do. Be ready!

WHO STARTED THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

Gerald Cowan

The answer may surprise those who think of the church of the Lord in terms of a denomination, or as a conglomerate of disparate groups claiming to be parts of “the universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Most denominations trace their origin to the work of some notable person – sometimes they are even named to honor their founder. Some think of the church of Christ as a predominantly American “denomination” with its origin and roots in the works of Thomas and Alexander Campbell, men who came to the United States from Britain in the early 1800's. Of course we know, or should know that the Campbells and many others of that time were intent on simply returning to the New Testament pattern, initiated by Christ and implemented by his apostles. They wanted to become part of the historic people called together by the Lord and added to each time any person obeyed the commands of Christ and met his requirements for inclusion in his spiritual family (see Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38, 1 Cor. 12:13, Col. 2:11-12 and 1:13-18).

They never intended to start something new, but only to become proper parts of something that had existed since the day of Pentecost after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Others had announced the same desire and intention before them and many have espoused the same principle since their time.

Documentary research done by a Dr. Robinson of Birmingham, England revealed the following: “In the Furness District of Lancashire, in England, there existed in 1669, during the reign of King Charles II, a group of eight churches of Christ, most of them not now in existence. An old minute-book has been found for the year 1669, and it shows that they called themselves by the name Church of Christ, practiced baptism by immersion, celebrated the Lord's supper each Sunday, and had elders and deacons in each congregation. There was also a church of Christ in Dungannon, Ireland in 1804, and one in Allington, Deighshire. In 1735 John Davis, a young preacher from the Fife District in Scotland, was preaching simple New Testament Christianity some twenty five years from Thomas Campbell (Alexander's father) was born.”

We do not include this information here to show that the church of Christ started earlier than the 1800's in America – we repudiate the whole idea that the church acknowledged and validated by Christ could have been started by anyone other than Christ himself, as warranted in the New Testament writings.

The church of the Lord existed long before 17th century England or 19th century America. It was predicted some five hundred years before Christ (Dan. 2:44), was promised by Jesus (Mt. 16:18), began and was announced as existing on the day of Pentecost, with the saved being added into it (Acts 2:41, 47). It has continued to exist without change since that day, with the only variable being those being saved by obedience to Christ and his gospel and assembling in various places as his people (Rom. 16:16, Gal. 1:1-2, etc).

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It is difficult to verify the existence of true Christians and congregations of true Christians in some periods of history. Much of church history is dominated by corrupt and unscriptural institutions claiming to be the church or parts of it. They suppress the truth of the Lord as given in his word, and promote themselves by denying the validity of anything other than themselves. They are believed by misguided people who believe that somehow the number of adherents proves the validity of the group. But multiplied millions of members of an unscriptural group will not make it valid, nor will they win for themselves the approval and acceptance of God (Mt. 7:21-28).

Of one thing we are certain: the church of Christ was not started in the United States by the Campbells, or by anybody else. The movement in which the Campbells and many others took the lead in America was simply one of many historical efforts to reform existing churches and restore the New Testament pattern for the church. To be sure that we are in the church of the Lord we must verify our own salvation, as set forth in the scripture (remember only those He saves are added by Him to His church). We must verify it by the scripture, not by the teachings of any reformer or restorer, not by the words of any modern day preacher, and not by any denominational group large or small that is not identified in the New Testament of God's Word.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Thanks to all that helped make our Gospel Meeting great. Thanks to everyone who attended, invited and prepared food. Gospel Meeting Sermon Audio is available on our website: chapmanchurch.com

March 25th-27th
LADS TO LEADERS CONVENTION
Memphis, TN

Good Luck to all of our participants!

PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: chapmanchurch.com

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Margie & Everett Hurt, Jamison & Taylor Staggs

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Lester Wommack (Tupelo / pneumonia), Deborah Gullick (Tupelo/ Rehab), Amy Chapman (168– Tupelo/ Rehab), Terry Jumper (Heart – Tupelo), Rhett Sanderson (Newborn, Memphis)

•**SURGERY:** Robin Chapman

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Hollis Fowler (Frankie Fowler's Father), Ed James Pannell, 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:** Lester Wommack, Grady Chandler, Lorie Christian, 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), 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 Daily, Christine Chapman (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*).