

**April 9 2017
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Tommy Wade

Song Leader

Brad McAlister

Scripture Reading

Keith Newby

Opening Prayer

Chance Criswell (A.M.) Palmer Jones (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Mickey Chandler (A.M.) Barrett Chapman (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Jodie Criswell (Presiding),

Eli Carter, Ricky Cissom, Ricky Loveless

Count and Usher

Danny Shackelford & Casey Harris

Prepare Communion

Janette Rickles & Romia Palmer

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Brock Lindley (04/12/17)

OUR RECORD

April 2, 2017

Sunday Bible Study: 123

Sunday Morning Worship: 136

Sunday Evening Worship: 100

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 105

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,545

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).



THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Ripley, Mississippi
(662) 837-7012
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

“THAT’S JUST YOUR INTERPRETATION”
Mark Lindley

A popular idea of our day is that the Bible is subject to many, different interpretations. These interpretations, we are told, are all equally valid. Even when one interpretation clearly contradicts another, many are willing to affirm that “both are right.”

But is this doctrine true? Does the Bible teach that every person has a right to his own interpretation of the Scriptures?

In response to these questions, consider what is written in Acts 15:1: “And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.” The men under consideration appear to have been sincere in their beliefs. They were interpreting the Old Testament Scriptures to mean that all males, Jews and Gentiles, for all time, had to practice circumcision in order to be saved.

Were they right in their interpretation? Of course not. Under the Old Testament system, Jewish males were to be circumcised; however, God never intended for circumcision to be bound on New Testament Christians (Galatians 5:6). This proves that one may hold to an interpretation of the Scriptures that is not correct.

Many verses of the New Testament make it clear that all interpretations are not equal. One’s interpretation may be right or wrong. Paul exhorted: “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thessalonians 5:21). How could one “prove” anything to be true or false, good or bad, if all interpretations are equal? Consider II Timothy 1:13: “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” The word “form” suggests the concept of a “pattern.” This text teaches, therefore, that there is a “pattern” that constitutes “sound words,” sound doctrine. But think about it: if there is a pattern of “sound words” which Christians are to follow, then teachings which are not in line with the pattern of sound words should be rejected. Thus, all interpretations are not equally valid.

The position that everyone has a right to his own interpretation is really equivalent to affirming that everyone has a right to create his own Bible. If one finds a verse in the Bible that condemns one’s actions, lifestyle, desires, or beliefs, simply place a “different” interpretation on that verse and dismiss it. In other words, create your own Bible. Who can believe it?

I would caution us all that Jesus warned: “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Every interpretation is not equal to all others. If babies are not born in sin, then those who teach otherwise are wrong; if “Once Saved, Always Saved” is true, then those who teach that one can fall from grace (cf. Galatians 5:4) are wrong. If one can marry, divorce and remarry for any reason, then those who teach that “fornication” is the only exception given for divorce and remarriage, are wrong.

Let us use our minds and reason properly. When there is a contradiction between beliefs, either one is right and the other is wrong, or both are wrong. But both cannot be right!

Unanswerable Argument Glen Elliott

In the face of religious opposition, we may defend our belief in Christ in a variety of ways. We may argue for the Bible on the basis of archaeological evidence. Or, we may rely on its scientific foreknowledge. We might even choose to use examples of fulfilled prophecy as proof of the Bible's inspiration. All of these are viable forms of argumentation, but there remains one unanswerable argument. This argument, when properly used, will utterly confound the enemies of Christianity. Are you interested? Then, let us proceed.

In the fourth chapter of the book of Acts, we read about two ordinary fishermen who had become followers of Jesus Christ. They were arrested for proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. When the Council assembled for the purpose of dealing with these men, they observed that a change had taken place within them. The text says that "...as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply" (Acts 4:13-14). There was nothing they could say—it was an unanswerable argument! They could not deny the miracle that these men had performed in the name of their Lord.

We are not in a position to do what Peter and John did through the special gifts they had received through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). However, the fact remains that good works provide an amazing, if not unanswerable argument, in our lives as well. The works we do out of love for Jesus demonstrate to the world our faith in Him. As James pointed out, "someone may well say, 'You have faith, and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works'" (Jas. 2:18). Works done for the Lord demonstrate our faith and shine like a beacon in a world of darkness. Jesus said, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 5:16). We will have little lasting effect on the world if we argue for Christ merely on the basis of words. Actions that reinforce and illustrate our message bring things together in a way that attracts the seeking heart. The world may ridicule our faith in God. People may mock our good behavior in Christ. But, they can never adequately answer the argument rendered by changed lives that are filled with good works offered in the name of Jesus. Remember that one unanswerable argument for Christianity is Christianity!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14th-16th
LADS TO LEADERS CONVENTION
Memphis, TN
Good Luck to all of our participants!

CHAPMAN LADIES BIBLE CLASS
Thursday, April 20th at 6:30

CHAPMAN
SPRING BRING
Sunday, April 23rd
We will have a fellowship meal (potluck)
followed by services at 1:30 p.m.

PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: 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

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Susan Yancey

•**HOSPITAL:** Sadie Fitzgerald (Baptist
East Women's Hospital- NICU)

•**TEST:** Tracey Gross

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Sandra Hopper,
George Doss (Kelly Brewer's Father), Ed
James Pannell, Connie Mauney, Genice
Collette (Mildred Shackelford's Sister),
Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah
McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter,
Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.

•**CANCER:** Dwight Ward, Betty Faye
Ledbury, Chester Smith, Lana Waldon,
Cutah Newby, Peggy Boggs, Marsha
Jones, Nita Trotter, Lyle Bullock, Carolyn
Medlin, Lanny Yancey, Niani Colom-
Omotesa, Kenneth Rainey, Marilyn Harrell,
Janice Willingham, Lester Wommack,
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), Sue Mauney, Wade Hodges,
Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, 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: **Bonnie Chapman,**
Lorene Daily, Christine Chapman (*Mailing:*
Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City
Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663). **Johnnie**
Carpenter (*Mailing: Tishomingo Living Center,*
1410 West Quitman Street, luka, MS 38852