

**May 7, 2017  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Announcements**

Palmer Jones

**Song Leader**

Jodie Criswell

**Scripture Reading**

Bo Chapman

**Opening Prayer**

Jeff Brewer (A.M.) Bryan Davis (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Joel Moore (A.M.) Chase Chapman (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Britt Lindley (Presiding),

Jeff Staggs, Michiel Criswell, Bobby Bridges

**Count and Usher**

David Smith and Andy Reese

**Prepare Communion**

Candace Hopper & Sandy Newby

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Larry Wood (05/10/2017)

**OUR RECORD**

April 30, 2017

Sunday Bible Study: 128

Sunday Morning Worship: 138

Sunday Evening Worship: 116

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 110

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$8,625

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

[chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)

Also can view on our website:

[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).



# THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Ripley, Mississippi  
(662) 837-7012  
[chapmanchurch.com](http://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

## IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER? Mark Lindley

It is not uncommon in our day to hear someone affirm that one church is as good as another. In fact, this is, allegedly, the commonly held belief of all the various protestant denominations. According to denominationalism, what matters is being sincere in one's religious convictions, and since sincerity is what matters, the church one chooses is irrelevant. It is believed that all churches are denominations, and that all the various denominations comprise the true church of Christ. Therefore, we are told that "one church is as good as another."

I would like to suggest that while this doctrine may "sound good," it is not a doctrine that people actually apply to themselves and practice. This doctrine continues to be preached, not because people actually practice it, but rather because it has a "good ring" to it.

I maintain that this concept is not practical for the following reason: to argue that "one church is as good as another" is equivalent to arguing that "one doctrine is as good as another." This must be the case, since all denominations have different denominational names, doctrines, and practices.

But is it true that "one doctrine is as good as another?" No, it is not true, and I am persuaded that if folk would think through this they would agree. For example, some believe that praying through Mary is better than praying through Jesus. Some teach that women should preach in worship services and exercise authority over men; others teach that women are not to lead in congregational worship services. Some teach that infants should be sprinkled, while others teach that baptism is for those who are old enough to make the choice to be baptized. Some teach that Jesus was a created being and is not the eternal Son of God; others say that Jesus is an eternal being, the Son of God, and is "not" a created being.

Now, think about these matters. If one church is as good as another, then one doctrine is as good as another. If one doctrine is as good as another, then praying through Mary is just as good as praying through Jesus. Believing that Jesus is the Son of God is just as good as believing that Jesus is "not" the Son of God. The list of various doctrines goes on and on. It may sound good to say that "one church is as good as another," but, in reality, reason and logic demand that we reject such an inconsistent and self-contradictory belief (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

It is not my intention to prove that one denomination is superior to others. Rather, it is my intention to convey that the church Jesus built—the church of the New Testament—is superior to all denominations (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:23, 25). Jesus built His church hundreds of years before there were protestant denominations (Acts 2:47). His church pre-dates all denominations, and it is still possible today to be part of His church without ever joining a denomination. Does this sound interesting? If so, then read the book of Acts to see how sinners in the first century became members of Jesus' church.

**It Seems Hopeless  
How Did That Turn Out?  
Dan Jenkins**

Who has not had that period in their life where the darkest clouds surrounded them, and the raging storms of life threatened them? Who has not been filled with anxiety and felt like Luke, who described that storm he shared with Paul on the apostle's voyage to Rome? He said, "Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up" (Acts 27:20). All hope was lost! It seemed to be a totally hopeless situation.

The complete story of Paul's shipwreck can so totally change how we view adversity. Without God, life can be hopeless. This is true for most people, but for His children, is there ever a hopeless situation? Look at the following stories and see how hopelessness turned into great blessings in others' lives.

Ask Joseph about his life—hated by his older brothers; their desire to kill the dreamer; sold as a slave; bought by Potiphar whose wife hated Joseph so much her lies resulted in his imprisonment. Is that not a hopeless situation? Now ask Joseph later in his life, "How did all that turn out?" There is always hope with God.

After Moses fled from Egypt, ask him about his life—the results of him trying to do right in slaying the Egyptian who was beating the Jew; the desire of Pharaoh to

kill him; his flight from Egypt; his fall from the palaces of Egypt to living like a nomad tending sheep for the next forty years. Is that not a hopeless situation? Now ask him again as he stood on Mount Pisgah and viewed the land flowing with milk and honey in all of its resplendent beauty. Ask him now, "How did that turn out?" There is always hope with God.

Ask Hezekiah about his hopeless situation—Assyria destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel, and that massive army had come south and surrounded Jerusalem. What hope was there when nearly 200,000 soldiers were ready to break open the gates or scale the walls of the city? It was a hopeless situation. Wait just a few days and ask Hezekiah, "How did that turn out?" Ask him how the king of Assyria lost 185,000 soldiers without the Jews having a single loss.

Ask the jailor in Philippi about that nightmare when in the middle of the night an earthquake freed all his prisoners. Ask him how hopeless he felt as he was ready to commit suicide. Ask him just hours later, "How did that turn out?" Ask him about the joy he then had as he shared a meal with his family and newfound friends. There is always hope with God.

Now make the application of these stories to your life. Life viewed without God may seem hopeless, but remember how these stories turned out. There is always hope with God.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 7, 2017**

**Chapman Singing:**

Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home at 2 PM

### CHAPMAN

## 2017 Lads To Leaders Awards Night Sunday, May 7th

After evening services in fellowship hall. Please make plans to come and help honor our 2017 Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes participants. Please wear L2Ls T-Shirts.

Ladies bring finger foods/desserts/2 liter soft drinks

**Thursday, May, 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30PM**

**CHAPMAN LADIES BIBLE CLASS**

**Lesson: Robin Chapman**

**Food: Kathy Moore, Joy Simmons, Loretta Criswell**

**May 21, 2017**

## SENIOR NIGHT

After evening services in fellowship hall. Congratulations to our 2017 graduating high school seniors:

**Brock Lindley & Montana Brown**

Please make plans to join us in wishing them well in their future endeavors.

*Ladies please bring finger foods, desserts or 2 liter drinks.*

### 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

**IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY:** Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bro. Fagin Carpenter.

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Ola Wade, Everett Hurt, Juan Stroupe, Audrey Box

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Rhonda Newby (Knee)

•**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, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.

•**CANCER:** Audrey Box, 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**