



CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
250 COUNTY ROAD 550
RIPLEY, MS 38663

May 9, 2021
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements
Larry Wood

Sunday Song Leader
Keith Newby

Wednesday Song Leader
Brad McAlister (05/12/21)

Scripture Reading
Reed Shackelford

Opening Prayer
James Pilgrim (AM)
Danny Shackelford (PM)

Closing Prayer
Tommy Wade (AM)
Britt Lindley (PM)

Count and Usher
Ricky Loveless, Brock Lindley

Communion
Bryan Davis

Pick Up Communion when entering

OUR RECORD

May 2, 2021

Sunday Bible Study: 85
Sunday Morning Worship: 112
Sunday Evening Worship: 84
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 89
Budget: \$3,500
Contribution this week: NA

Chapman Challenger

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notify us:

chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

Also can view on our website:

chapmanchurch.com

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Chapman Church of Christ
Ripley, Mississippi
(662) 837-7012
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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

NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM
Mark Lindley

The focus of Jesus' preaching was "the kingdom of God." Scripture says, "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). Jesus insisted that the kingdom should be a priority for all of us: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). But what is the kingdom? The kingdom of which Jesus spoke is the church. Jesus said to Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it...and I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom" (Matthew 16:18-19). This shows that when Jesus spoke of the kingdom, He was speaking of the church.

Since Jesus frequently preached about the kingdom (the church), and encouraged people to "seek" it, you and I should want to be part of it today.

There was a man Jesus met who was "not far from the kingdom" (Mark 12:34). This man was a scribe, a religious man, one who knew a lot about God's Word. Yet, in spite of this man's religious background, he was only "near" the kingdom.

I supposed being near the kingdom is, in a sense, better than being far from it. Jesus seems to indicate that being near the kingdom is better than not being near it (Mark 12:34). Yet, the blessings of the kingdom are for those who are "in" the kingdom (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 1:13; John 3:5).

There are many good, sincere religious people today who have never become part of the Lord's kingdom. How does one become part of the kingdom? Jesus addressed that, as recorded in John chapter 3. He stated, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). This shows that one enters the kingdom by being born of water and spirit.

What does it mean to be born of water and spirit? Let the Lord explain. In giving the Great Commission, Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).

Now think for a moment, those who are born again enter the kingdom (surely, they are saved). I am sure all serious students of the Bible would agree that those who are born again are saved. Then, consider that Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Notice: belief and baptism result in salvation; being born again results in salvation. It must be, therefore, that to be born again, born of water and spirit, is to believe and be baptized. Those who are born again enter the kingdom. They are no longer just "near" the kingdom. Having entered the kingdom, one has salvation from all past sin and the promise of eternal life! Are you "in" the kingdom?

Stop Dating The Church by Steve Higginbotham

I recently read a book by Joshua Harris by the above title. In this book Harris affirmed that there are many people who “date” the church, but who are unwilling to fall in love with and be committed to the church. And you know, I think he’s right. How many people do you know who are “believers” but they’re not “belongers.” They believe in Jesus, but don’t want to be tied down. They “date” the church, but want to remain independent and free of commitment and responsibility.

Friends, instead of seeing the church for all its flaws and foibles, why not see it as the wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:9-11), and the beautiful bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25-32). Committing to the church doesn’t tie one down, rather it anchors one through the storms of life. And it’s flaws? It’s flaws provide us with an opportunity to love, serve, practice patience, and grow more like our Savior.

Listen friends, don’t allow yourself to use the excuse that the church is too messed up to commit to it. Jesus is the only one who has the right to disown or give up on the church, but he never has and never will.

Therefore, let me leave you with this challenge. Many people are fond of saying that we need to develop a heart for the poor or a heart for the lost, and these are good desires. But may I challenge you to also develop a heart for the church? Get involved. Get committed. Take on responsibility. Invest yourself. After all, if

Have You Seen _____ Lately? By Jim Faughn

I guess that it happens in every congregation. See if this scenario looks familiar to you: A person or a family is not with the saints when they assemble one week at a particular congregation of God’s people. It is assumed that they must be out of town or something, because it is unusual for them to not meet with the local congregation to worship. Another week or two goes by and they are still missing. After about a month or so (or more), somebody asks the preacher, “Have you seen _____ lately?” The preacher informs the brother or sister that, yes indeed, he has seen them and/or talked with them and that they are now worshiping somewhere else or are not worshiping anywhere at all. There is shock and disappointment on the part of the one who has asked about _____. As the word gets around, people wonder what in the world could have happened and what could have been done to prevent this _____ situation.

May I offer one suggestion? Don’t depend on the elders or the preacher to do all of the “checking up” on individuals. Why not make it your responsibility (as well as the responsibility of the elders and preacher) to let people know that you care enough about them to let them know that they are being missed when they are _____ not _____ with _____ us.

Let me share with you one of my personal goals. It is just that; a goal. Unfortunately, I sometimes fail to meet the goal, but it is always before me and I honestly do try. It is one of my goals to make it impossible for any former member of the congregation to be able to say, “Well, I was gone for months and nobody ever checked on me. I guess they didn’t care as much as they said they did.”

How much of an impact would it have if every member of the local congregation would notice when somebody is not attending as they formerly did and made it a priority to live up to all of those “one another” passages in the New Testament? Why don’t we try to find out what that impact would be?

Will you join me in setting a goal similar to mine? Will you make it a goal to never have to ask the question, “Have you seen _____ lately?”

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
2 Chronicles 7:14

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Sister Treva Lewellen.

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

•**SICK:** Jeff Carpenter, Jane Morrison

•**RECOVERY AT HOME:** Karen Jones, Bobbye Chapman

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Romia Palmer, Patti Hall, Johnny Cissom, George Doss, Joanie Kate Reese, Louise Pannell, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** Marie Brumley, Keith Hall, Hermie Henry (Bonnie Hurt’s Mother), Cohen Hurt, Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith, Betty Faye Ledbury, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Niani Colom-Omotesa

•**SHUT-INS:** Resthaven: **Oleta Phillips, Johnnie Carpenter** (Mailing: Resthaven Nursing Home, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663)

Sermons available on Facebook and YouTube.