

August 21, 2022

**Announcements**

Tommy Wade

**Song Leader**

Chris Moore

**Scripture Reading**

Tripp Yancey

**Opening Prayer**

Britt Lindley (A.M.)

Jarvene Shackelford (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Tim McMillin (A.M.)

James Pilgrim (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Larry Wood

**Count and Usher**

Rickey Cissom & Dale Vandygriff

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

John Hopper (08/24/22)

**OUR RECORD**

**August 14, 2022**

Sunday Bible Study: 95

Sunday Morning Worship: 115

Sunday Evening Worship: 74

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 87

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

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[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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**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

**FALLING FROM GRACE—**

**IS IT POSSIBLE?**

**Mark Lindley**

It is called the "Once Saved, Always Saved" doctrine, the "Eternal Security of the Believer," and the "Perseverance of the Saints" doctrine. No matter what it is called, the idea is the same, namely, that a child of God cannot so sin as to be eternally lost. In other words, once one has been saved, he can never lose his salvation. This is a popular doctrine, but, of course, its popularity does not make it true. A doctrine is only true if it can be established from Scripture. So what do the Scriptures teach about this matter?

The Bible teaches that if a man does not abide in Christ, that man will be cut off and cast into the fire (John 15:6). Obviously, one first has to be "in Christ" in order to "abide" in Him. Further, one who is in Christ is saved (II Timothy 2:10); therefore, one who is saved can be cut off and cast into the fire. The Scriptures teach that one who has believed and been baptized can later, perish (Acts 8:13, 20). It is easily established from Scripture that one can fall: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:12). Why the warning if there is no danger of falling? In addition, one can fall from grace: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace**" (Galatians 5:4). It appears these had already done what some say is impossible to do—they had fallen from grace! God's Word says that one who has "escaped the pollutions of the world" (i.e., has been saved) can so act that the latter end is worse with him than the beginning (II Peter 2:20-22). But if one can never lose his salvation, how could the latter end (after one has been saved) be worse than the beginning (before one has been saved)?

These verses and many others which could be listed all indicate that the blessing of salvation can be forfeited, if one does not remain faithful. Jesus said, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10). The faithful will be saved eternally.

## What Kind of Christian Are YOU? (author unknown)

Some are like wheelbarrows — have to be pushed;

Some are like trailers — have to be pulled.

Some are like kites — always trying to fly away.

Some are like kittens — more contented when petted.

Some are like footballs — you can never tell which way they will bounce.

Some are like balloons — full of wind and ready to explode.

Some are like neon signs — always going from on to off.

Some are like a "dead" battery — no energy or power.

Some are like the hitchhiker — want a free ride while others foot all the expenses.

Some are like an iceberg — cold and dangerous.

Some are like a candle under a basket — useless.

Some are like salt mixed with sand — no saving power.

Some are like little children — no sense of responsibility.

Some are like falling leaves — carried away with the slightest wind of doctrine.

Thank God, some are like the Rock of Gibraltar — Firm, Unmovable.

## TRUE UNITY

We commonly believe that if the members of a congregation get along really well, they are unified and constitute a strong spiritual family. However, this is not necessarily true. Men who congregate at a cafe every morning for coffee are close friends, but that does not mean they are a spiritual family. Likewise, a group of people who gather on Sundays and Wednesdays can be close friends, love each other's company, and not necessarily be a close spiritual family. It requires more than simply good cheer, hugs, and laughs.

A spiritual family is one that exists in Christ (Galatians 3:27; Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38). Its primary goal is to bring glory to Christ (Ephesians 3:20-21), which includes evangelism, worship, fellowship, and a host of spiritual blessings. We labor diligently in the fields of the Lord in His name (Colossians 3:17). We work with His power to accomplish the goals set forth in Scripture (Ephesians 1:19). God "put all things under [Christ's] feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:22-23).

If we are not seeking to fulfill these majestic goals, we are a group of friends but not necessarily a functional, spiritual family. The Lord's church exists to do the Lord's work, not simply to be a social club. The task before us is too immense to ignore.

God brings spiritual families together (Acts 2:47). We can create a group around a common interest, but it may not be Christ's interest. Friendships are wonderful, but if they exist within a spiritual family they are far better. When we are united in the job of bringing souls to the Lord, we are developing the strongest bonds possible.

A group of friends knows the boundaries that exist within the group. They know the areas in which the individual members differ, and they suppress them for the sake of the group. As a result, their common interests fuel their group. Surely we can see how this differs from biblical unity. Paul wrote: "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Unity in the Spirit means that we are united in the Lord and in God's holy and divine Word. We speak the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11), whether we find them palatable or not (2 Timothy 4:2). We have no right to suppress that which we do not like just so the group can be harmonious. That goes beyond our rights as children of God (1 Corinthians 4:6).

Christians submit to God and then they find spiritual unity. Just like an orchestra, we remain focused on the conductor and playing the piece that he has written. When we do, we create beautiful music.

Biblical unity is more than companionship; it is collectively moving toward the goal of heaven (2 Thessalonians 2:13-17). That will bring joyful hearts by itself. When we are rich in His grace and mercy, we will find the spiritual unity we all crave. Let us seek it out every day!

—Richard Mansel

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST AREA WIDE YOUTH NIGHT***

*August 21, 2022*

*5:00 PM*

*Speaker: Mason Cothren*

*Food/Games will be provided*

### **CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST FRIENDS AND FAMILY DAY**

**OCTOBER 9TH**

### **GOSPEL MEETING**

**OCTOBER 9-12**

*SPEAKER: ADAM MILLER*

### **TEXT ALERTS**

Text chapmancoc to 95577 to receive  
Chapman's Text Alerts.

### **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

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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 Sandra Hopper (Joan Berryman's Sister).

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

**SICK SUNDAY :** Molly Moore, Randell & Connie Koon, Gearlene Cissom, Pat Wade

**HOSPITAL :** Theo Smith, Ricky Rogers (Jodie Criswell's Son-in-law), Greg Hughes

**SURGERY :** Terry Chapman

**SURGERY RECOVERY :** Jodie Criswell, Billy McBryde (Rita Smith's Father), Payden Criswell

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Malone Hurt, Gerohn Childs, Junior Derrick, Jane Morrison, Patti Hall, George Doss, Joanie Kate Reese, Louise Pannell, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** Lennox Kennamore (Leukemia), Jimmie Wayne Roberson, 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, *Resthaven:* Johnnie Carpenter