

**September 14, 2014**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Announcements**

Chris Moore

**Song Leader**

Jodie Criswell

**Scripture Reading**

Bryan Davis

**Opening Prayer**

Randell Koon (A.M.) Keith Newby (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Junior Derrick (A.M.) Kevin Shackelford (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Tom Wade (Presiding),

Jeff Brewer, Chase Chapman, Tommy Wade

**Count and Usher**

Eric Melton and Bobby Bridges

**Prepare Communion**

Bobbie Chapman & Pat Shackelford

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Logan Yancey (09/17/14)

**OUR RECORD**

**September 7, 2014**

Sunday Bible Study: 128

Sunday Morning Worship: 142

Sunday Evening Worship: 106

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 107

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,318

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:  
[chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)

**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  
Address Service Requested

# THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

Published Weekly by  
**Chapman Church of Christ**  
Ripley, Mississippi  
(662) 837-7012  
[chapmanchurch.com](http://chapmanchurch.com)

**ELDERS:** Barrett Chapman, Jodie Criswell,  
Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade  
**DEACONS:** Terry Chapman, Bryan Davis, Rickey  
Loveless, Brad McAlister,  
Joel Moore, Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood  
**PREACHER:** Mark Lindley

**WHY HAS ALL THIS HAPPENED TO US?**  
By Mark Lindley

Gideon was a great servant of the Lord and a mighty man of valor (Judges 6:12). Nevertheless, he was a "man" who had fears and doubts. In Gideon's day, the Midianites were oppressing God's people and Gideon did not understand how God could be with His people while they were being oppressed by the Midianites. Notice Gideon's statement: "And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites" (Judges 6:13). Essentially, Gideon was asking, "If God is with us, then why has all this happened to us?"

God's people today often ponder that same thought: If God is with us, then why do we have discouragements, heartaches, trials and burdens? Sometimes, people attempting to comfort the suffering offer remarks which add to the confusion. In trying to comfort the bereaved, one might say, "God loved your son more than we did and God took him home." In trying to console a faithful child of God who is terminally ill, one might say, "God has a reason for everything." In other times of trouble, one might say, "You know we should never ask 'why.'" But is it really true that God "takes" (takes the lives) of our loved ones because He loves them more than we? Does this mean we are at fault for not loving them more? Is it really true that God has a reason for everything? If an innocent person dies in a head-on collision with a drunk driver, is it because God had a reason for the innocent person to be killed? Is it really wrong to ask "why" when we suffer? Did not Jesus ask, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). If Jesus asked "why," would it be wrong for us to do so?

The truth is that God created a perfect world, but because of sin we live in a fallen world, one in which there is death and all kinds of suffering (Romans 5:12). God allows us to experience suffering that we might prove our faith, but God is not directly responsible for all the suffering in our world. I suppose we will always have questions about human suffering and why bad things happen to good people. However, we should understand that God loves us, and that times of trouble provide opportunities for us to grow in faith and patience: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2-4).

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. BULK RATE  
PAID  
DUMAS, MS 38625  
PERMIT NO. 1

## Some Practical Benefits of Suffering By Bart Warren

Quite obviously, nobody wants to suffer. Nobody prays for hardship and ruin. However, such is certainly a part of our lives on this side of eternity (John 16:33). The positive news is that this world with its difficulties is not all that there is to existence (Rom. 8:18, 28). In fact, we are told that our suffering can help us to grow stronger (1 Peter 1:6-7). So, practically speaking, how can the bad things that happen to us be used to build our faith?

Suffering should drive the child of God to pray. In 2 Kings 20:1, Hezekiah was told, “[You shall die; you shall not recover.” What was his reaction? “Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord” (2 Kings 20:2). What did God do? He said to the king, “I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Behold, I will heal you” (2 Kings 20:5). Remember: God loves, listens, and understands! Cast your burdens on Him (1 Peter 5:7)!

Suffering should drive the child of God to study. The Psalmist said, “It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes” (Psalm 119:71). And again, “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word” (Psalm 119:67). The answers to many of our questions are found in the revealed will of God, the Holy Bible (John 6:68).

Suffering should open the eyes of the child of God to his own weaknesses. It was the “thorn in the flesh” that helped Paul to realize his dependence upon the power of God and that “when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

Suffering should lead the child of God to a more confident hope. “More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:3-5). “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing” (James 1:2-4).

Our hope is in the God that rules...the God that wins. D.A. Carson wrote: “Christians will take refuge from their questions about suffering not in bitterness, self-pity, resentment against God, or trite clichés and religious cant, but in endurance, perseverance, and faith in the God who has suffered, who has fought with evil and triumphed, and whose power and goodness ensure that faith resting in him is never finally disappointed” (How Long, O Lord? 246).

## How Important is the Church? By Ron Bartanen

It is troubling that there are many who claim respect for the Bible, and claim faith in Christ, but have chosen to regard the church as an option. Statements are often heard such as, “My religion is a personal religion. I don’t need a church to feel close to God.” These see little importance in the church—at least for themselves. How should we respond to this concept?

In the first place, one’s feelings on the matter may be irrelevant. God’s prophet, Jeremiah, declared, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). In other words, to trust one’s feelings would be to listen to a liar.

In the second place, religion is greatly over-valued. Jesus didn’t come to make us religious. Universally, man has always been religious. Even worshipers of Satan are religious. They were religious people who cried out against Christ, saying, “Crucify Him!”

In the third place, most have a totally flawed view of what the Bible speaks of as the church. The church is not seen in Scripture as a denomination, or an aggregate of denominations. Many are turned away by what is sometimes referred to as “organized religion.” Denominational structures and alliances are man-made sectarian fellowships bound together by human creeds and rules of faith and practice. The New Testament church was divided only by location, with no central headquarters, and had no sectarian allegiance to a religious party. Partyism within the one body was carnal, not spiritual (1 Cor. 3:3-4). The church was not something they joined, but it was a body of people who responded to the gospel (good news) of Christ in faith, repenting of their sins, and being baptized (immersed) in acceptance of the remission of sins. Of such it is said, “The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Read Acts 2:36-47). The church is not an organization, like a country club, that one might choose to join, but it is the universal fellowship of those who have committed themselves to Christ to serve and obey Him.

The importance of this relationship is seen in the fact that the church was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28), and is spoken of as Christ’s body, of which He alone is head (Colossians 1:18). The endearment with which Christ loves the church is seen in the apostle Paul’s comparison of Jesus’ relationship with the church to the relationship of a man with his wife, even giving His life for her (Eph. 5:22-33).

Had the first Christians regarded their relationship to Christ as “a personal religion” apart from other believers, it would have been contrary to Christ who promised, in anticipation of this redeemed community, “I will build my church” (Matt. 16:18). Rather, from the first they “continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine, the fellowship, the breaking of bread and in prayers” (Acts 2:42), also “teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs...” (Col. 3:16). Had they not been diligent in this, surely the Christian faith would have been quickly snuffed out. Christians need one another, and are to worship and work together in the body of Christ. We are admonished, “Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25).

The church is obviously important to the Lord. The question is: Is the church important to you?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 14, 2014**

Golden Living  
Singing/Devotion  
2:00 PM

**September 18, 2014**

Ladies Bible Class  
6:30 PM

### CHAPMAN THIRD QUARTER BIRTHDAYS (July-September)

The Lads to Leaders would like to invite those who have a birthday in the Third Quarter of 2014 to stay after church services Sunday Night- **September 21st** for cake and ice cream for you and your family in the Fellowship Hall. Please make plans to attend.

### 2014 CAMPAIGN FOR CHRIST

**September 28th-30th**

“Sounding Out”

Speaker: Keith Parker

At: Booneville Church of Christ

Singing: 6:30 PM

Service: 7:00 PM

## PROGRAMS OF WORK

### 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

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Eric Melton

•**NURSING HOME:** Cullen Loveless (Ricky’s Father) - Landmark Nursing & Rehab in Booneville.

•**HAVING TEST:** Eric Melton

•**HAVING SURGERY:** Lyndon Beard

•**TREATMENTS:** Yater Shinall (Dawn Jackson’s Father)

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Danny Robertson (Amy Stagg’s Father), Courtney Cissom (heart), Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Hudson Grisham (Brother-in-law of Mildred Shackelford), Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman. •**CANCER:** *Margaret Koon (Randle Koon’s Sister), Wade Hodges, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Grey Roberson, Merida Bane (Barrett & Starrett Chapman’s Sister), Beth Kuykendall, William Thrasher, Donna Daniel (Clint Stroupe’s Mother), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Mary Joyce Jeter (Sister of Juanita Michael), Rhonda Shannon, Ann Bennett, John Tiesney, 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:* Lorene Willis, Geraldine Benefield, Christine Chapman, Billie Floyd (Mailing: *Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*)

\*Please notify Karen Yancey (chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net) of any updates to the prayer list.