

October 2, 2022

**Announcements**

David Smith

**Song Leader**

Keith Newby

**Scripture Reading**

Bo Chapman

**Opening Prayer**

Bryan Davis (A.M.)  
Logan Yancey (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Jeff Brewer (A.M.)  
Brock Lindley (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Tommy Wade

**Count and Usher**

Ricky Cissom & Jimmy Vandgriff  
**Wednesday Night Song Leader**  
Ross Shackelford (10/05/22)

**OUR RECORD**

**September 25, 2022**

Sunday Bible Study: 75  
Sunday Morning Worship: 92  
Sunday Evening Worship: 71  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 96

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:  
[chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)  
View Chapman Challenger:  
[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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[chapmanchurch.com](http://chapmanchurch.com)

**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

## THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD Mark Lindley

The grace of God is truly amazing. When we reflect on the wonders of God's grace, we should be motivated to serve the Lord with gladness.

"Grace" is often defined as "unmerited favor." This definition is certainly true to the Bible. The Bible teaches that there is nothing we can do to earn or merit God's grace. God does not "owe" us salvation. Reading the Bible, attending worship services, visiting the sick, giving to the poor, believing on Christ, being baptized—none of these things "earns" one a place in heaven or puts God in debt to us. When we have done all the things the Lord has commanded, we still have not merited the grace of God.

Without God's grace, there would be no salvation from sin. Paul wrote, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Focus on the words: "by grace are ye saved." We are saved by grace in that God's grace has made the necessary provisions for sinners to be saved. God's grace is the reason Jesus came to earth and died on the cross. God's grace is the reason Jesus established His church and gave us a plan of salvation. God's grace is the reason forgiveness is extended to all who obey the Gospel. God's grace is the reason heaven is offered to God's faithful children. All who have sinned would be hell-bound if it were not for God's grace. No wonder we sing, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." God's grace cannot be earned or merited.

Nevertheless, we need to understand that, as amazing as God's grace is, there is one thing God's grace cannot and will not do. God's grace will not save the sinner who does not meet the conditions of God's plan of salvation. God's grace does not cancel a sinner's obligation to obey. This is not to say that a sinner must "earn" salvation; rather, the one who obeys God's plan of salvation is simply gaining access to the blessings provided by God's grace.

What are the conditions of God's plan of salvation? The New Testament teaches that those who have sinned must believe on Christ, repent of sins, confess faith in Christ, and be baptized for the remission of sins (John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Romans 10:10; Acts 22:16). By meeting these conditions, one becomes a Christian, and all past sins are washed away by the blood of Christ. These conditions enable one to connect to God's grace so that one receives God's forgiveness.

Once one has become a Christian, one must then live a faithful, Christian life (I John 1:7-9). By faithfulness, one stays connected to God's grace and all the spiritual blessings He provides (Romans 6:1-2; Galatians 5:4). Yes, God's grace is truly amazing. Have you received the blessings of God's grace? If not, respond in obedience and allow God's grace to save you today!

## PUBLIC CONFESSIONS

“Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that you may be healed” (James 5:16). This passage has stirred much controversy over the years, giving rise to at least two false doctrines. First, some have taken this passage to refer to a “confessional” system in which Christians must confess every sin to some kind of a leader, “discipler,” or priest. Second, some well-meaning brethren have taught and believed that every individual sin must be made known before the church before forgiveness can take place. While there ARE times when a public confession of sin is warranted, a Biblical view of these matters can give us a better sense of what responses are appropriate.

**What is Confession?** — Confession comes from a Greek word (*homologeō*) that literally means, “to speak the same,” or, “to agree with.” Thus, a confession is nothing more than our agreement with and acknowledgement of something that is already true. John says, “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). To confess our sins to God, then, is simply to say the same thing about our thoughts and actions that God already knows to be true! Confession is agreement with God’s divine verdict in our lives. John goes on to say that, “if we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us” (1 John 1:10). These Scriptures make clear that our forgiveness is partly based on our agreeing with God. We must say the same thing about sin that God does, or the truth is not in us.

**Must We Publicly Confess All Trespasses?** — Confession of sin is not just a matter between man and God. In fact, Jesus commanded us to, “first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift” (Matt. 5:24). The implication is that sin can directly affect relationships between brethren, and when that happens, confession is necessary for a restoration to take place. There is no Biblical precedent for sweeping sin under the rug and acting as if nothing happened. Rather, when our actions and attitudes have offended others, we need to “speak the same thing” that our brethren already know! Public confession is a mutual recognition of something that has deeply hurt individuals. May God give all of us forgiving hearts when sin is among us (Matt. 6:14)!

**When, Then, Must We Respond Publicly?** — Since confession is an agreement, a mutual recognition of a truth, we must always be ready to confess sins to God (Acts 8:22), for He knows everything about our hearts (Ps. 139:23-24). If our sin has hurt other individuals, we must be willing to make things right with the concerned parties as well (Matt. 5:24). Sometimes, however, our sin is so great that it affects the local church. There seem to be several circumstances under which a public confession of sin is needed. (1) When our attitudes and behavior in the community have brought reproach upon the name of Christ and the local church (Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:1-4). (2) When our attitudes and behavior have created strife and division within the local church (1 Cor. 1:10). (3) When our moral life has been an occasion of stumbling for others (1 Cor. 5:1-13). (4) When we have failed to encourage our brethren by faithful attendance (Heb. 3:13; 10:25). (5) When our conscience, guided and convicted by God’s word, tells us we need to make things right before God and the church (Rom. 14:23).

Not every sin demands a public confession, but I suspect that God would be glorified and churches would be strengthened if there was more Godly sorrow in us all (2 Cor. 7:14) — **John Baker**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Chapman Church of Christ  
Invites you to*

### Friends & Family Day and Gospel Meeting

*October 9-12, 2022*

**10:00 A.M. BIBLE STUDY**

**10:45 A.M. WORSHIP**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**1:30 P.M. AFTERNOON SERVICE**

**7:00 P.M. MONDAY-WEDNESDAY  
EVENING**

*SPEAKER: ADAM MILLER*

### **Pine Vale Children’s Home 2022 Fall Food Drive**

**We will be doing  
monetary donations.  
Donation Box is in the foyer.**

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

So wonderful to have Jodie Criswell back with us Sunday. He has been greatly missed.

**HOSPITAL :** Theo Smith, Phillip Loveless (Memphis ICU)

**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Jodie Criswell, Terry Chapman, Jeff Carpenter

**SURGERY:** Cheryl Chapman, Billie McBryde, David Smith, Pat Shackelford

**REHAB :** Debbie Chapman (TCH Room 1)

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Louise Pannell (Sharon’s Mother), Malone Hurt, Gerohn Childs, Junior Derrick, Jane Morrison, George Doss, Joanie Kate, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** Sidra Davis, Trish Clark, 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

**Sermons available  
on Facebook and YouTube**

**TEXT ALERTS**

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