

December 12, 2021

Announcements
Danny Shackelford

Song Leader
Chris Moore

Scripture Reading
Kevin Shackelford

Opening Prayer
Tim McMillin (A.M.)
Gene Yancey (P.M.)

Closing Prayer
Jodie Criswell (A.M.)
Brock Lindley (P.M.)

Lord's Table
Jarvene Shackelford

Count and Usher
Randell Koon & Bryan Davis

Wednesday Night Song Leader
Brock Lindley (12/15/21)

OUR RECORD

December 5, 2021

Sunday Bible Study: 95
Sunday Morning Worship: 124
Sunday Evening Worship: 83
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 95

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:
chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net
View Chapman Challenger:
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

Don't Confuse Me With The Facts
Wayne Greeson

Teaching the Gospel is not always easy. Probably the most difficult problem the Christian faces in trying to teach the Gospel is teaching a person who has a closed mind.

How often do we meet a person with an attitude that shouts "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up!" In other words, "It does not matter whether or not what you say is true, I am going to believe and do what I want." You could point to many Scriptures; you could provide examples from the New Testament; you could quote the very words of Jesus, yet such a person will remain unmoved. Such an attitude would be almost humorous if it were not so sad. We need to understand the world has always had such people in it and learn not to be discouraged.

For 120 years Noah preached repentance to a wicked world and warned of the impending Flood. For 120 years people slapped their hands over their ears whenever they saw Noah coming down the road. But then came the day when God shut the door of the ark and the rain drops began to fall. The only ones who were saved were those who had spent 120 years with a hammer and saw in their hands, instead of their hands over their ears.

Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet" to us today and for good reason. His mission was very similar to Noah's and his audience was just as stubborn. For about 40 years, Jeremiah preached to the rebellious people of God to repent or face the wrath of God. Jeremiah had good reason to cry because his audience not only refused to listen to him but also, instead of putting their hands over their ears, they made fists and put them in Jeremiah's face.

Jeremiah was declared a dangerous fanatic; beaten and put in stocks; his writings were burned by a king; he was called a traitor, beaten again and thrown into a dungeon; he was thrown into a cistern where he sank up to his armpits in mud; and finally he was carried off to Egypt. It is amazing what great lengths people went to not hear Jeremiah.

Somehow, there are those who believe Jesus was exempt from prejudiced audiences. Even the Son of God who spoke with all the power and truth of Deity faced people whose attitude expressed, "Don't confuse me with the facts". There were those who refused to listen to Christ; others mocked Him; on one occasion a mob tried to throw Him over a cliff and another time some tried to stone Him. The prejudice against Christ and His message grew to the point that to silence Him, His critics crucified Him.

After all the "plugged" ears Christians run into, (See, Acts 28:25-27), not only should Christians learn not to become discouraged, but also learn an important lesson on dull ears and closed eyes. Christians should beware of plugging their own ears, shutting their eyes and closing their minds to God's Truth -- the Bible.

Christians can "turn away their ears from the truth" (2 Tim. 4:4) and become just as stubborn and prejudiced and even more so than those in the world (See, 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Titus 1:13-16). If there is anything worse than a person of the world with their fingers in their ears, its a professed Christian with their fingers in their ears.

The proper attitude for the Christian is to "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good," (1 Thes. 5:21), studying to show thyself approved, (2 Tim. 2:15), and "examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things (are) so" (Acts 17:11). It is an attitude that "thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; bears all things believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor. 13:5-7). The Christian with the proper attitude towards others and the truth has his fingers turning the pages of his Bible instead of stuck in his ears!

The Curse Of Emptiness

Bobby Dockery

T. S. Eliot, in a famous poem, characterized the men and women of this age as hollow beings whose lives proclaim:

We are the hollow men
 We are the empty men
 Leaning together
 Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!
 Our dried voices, when
 We whisper together
 Are quiet and meaningless
 As wind in dry grass
 Or rats' feet over broken glass
 In our dry cellar

If you went out into the streets and asked people what they want most in life, most would say, "Happiness!" But instead of happiness, so many people find only emptiness. Why???

1) Some are living empty lives because they lack knowledge of the Savior. Millions in our world have never heard the name of Jesus. Even many of those who think of themselves as "Christian" actually know very little about Jesus and His teachings - and most of what they think they know is either completely wrong or tragically distorted! Those who do not know Jesus need to hear about Him from us!

2) Some are empty lives because they have not honestly tried God's way. They have some knowledge of the truth but refuse to obey it and live it. It is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting; it is that Christianity has been found difficult and not tried! They think the Christian life is too difficult to attempt. Our task is to show them they will never escape their emptiness until they do.

3) Some are living empty lives because they have missed the emphasis of the Gospel. It is ironic but true that there is a certain kind of religion which leads only to emptiness. A lot of people think of Christianity in terms of "negative goodness." They think they are Christians because of what they DON'T do: they don't lie, steal, murder, get drunk, commit adultery, etc. Jesus taught that we must not only clean the evil out of our lives, we must also replace it with positive goodness (Matthew 12:43-45)! We must get busy in serving God and our fellow man! The goal of true religion is not emptiness (absence of evil) but fullness (serving God and doing good to others)! The attitude, "I never did anybody any harm," will not make you happy; "bearing one anothers burdens" will!

Jesus longs to fill empty lives.

This is the good news of the Gospel!

Jesus can, not only clean out your life, He can also fill it up (Ephesians 1 :23). Life without Jesus will always be a life which is subject to barrenness and hollowness. Life with Him is fullness and grace upon grace (John 1:16) .

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAPMAN

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

Monday, December 13th at 6PM

"Ornament Swap"

Bring one tree ornament

Class Meets Second Monday night

Dec – May

Bible Study Topics:

December – Encourage-Serving My Sisters

January – Women of the Bible

February – Loving One Another

March – Are We Teaching Young Ladies

April – Effective in the Church

May – Prayer Life

*Young and Young at Heart
 Please attend as often as possible*

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

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

SICK SUNDAY: Terry Chapman and family, Lisa Miller, Wilma Wood, Dawn Jackson, Kathy Moore, Shelia Criswell. Sammie Pilgrim

HOSPITAL: Jimmy Berryman - Rehab Austin Wentz – St. Jude (Send Card: Austin Wentz 262 Danny Thomas Place Memphis, TN 38105) Colleen Weeks, Billy Stroupe (Send card: Baptist Memorial Rehabilitation, 1240 South Germantown Road, Germantown, TN 38138, Room 207)

SURGERY RECOVERY: Melinda Braddock, Debbie Chapman

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

•**CANCER:** April Pounders, Lori Duke, Billy McBryde, Keith Hall, Hermie Henry (Bonnie Hurt's Mother), Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith, Betty Faye Ledbury

•**SHUT-INS:** *Tippah County Health & Rehab:* Romia Palmer #204 *Resthaven:* Oleta Phillips, Johnnie Carpenter

TEXT ALERTS

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