

**December 18, 2016  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Announcements**

Jarvene Shackelford

**Song Leader**

Keith Newby

**Scripture Reading**

Palmer Jones

**Opening Prayer**

Randell Koon (A.M.) Gene Yancey (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Jeff Brewer (A.M.) Logan Yancey (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Terry Chapman (Presiding),

Andy Reese, J C Newby, Bobby Bridges

**Count and Usher**

Bryan Davis & Casey Harris

**Prepare Communion**

Brandi Reese and Karen Yancey

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Mason McAlister (12/21/2016)

**OUR RECORD**

**December 11, 2016**

**Sunday Bible Study: 134**

**Sunday Morning Worship: 157**

**Sunday Evening Worship: 128**

**Wednesday Night Bible Study: 115**

**Budget: \$3,500**

**Contribution this week: \$3,477**

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

[chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)

Also can view on our website:

**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  
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RIPLEY, MS 38663  
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# THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Ripley, Mississippi  
**(662) 837-7012**  
[chapmanchurch.com](http://chapmanchurch.com)

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

**Christmas?**

Jack McNiel

Every year around Christmas time, the newspaper calls and asks if our congregation has scheduled any kind of special service or religious observance for Christmas. I always tell them "No. We have nothing planned." As Christians, we love to embrace the "Christmas spirit" but not as any kind of religious observance. The "Christian world" at large, though, embraces this holiday as the most sacred and holy day of the year. Yet, members of the church of Christ do not observe it as such.

Why is that? Because, as Christians, everything we do in the name of religion must be in accordance with the teachings and doctrines of Christ. Col. 3:17

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." All religious practices, especially worship, must be according to truth. Jn.4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" Truth derives itself from the Word of God. Jn. 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." Christ denounces any religious practice that does not originate with the Father as vain religion. Mat. 15:9 "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

If "Christmas" did not originate with God, then what is the origin of the religious observance of "Christmas"? Before we begin, we need to notice that there is no mention of observing the birthday of Jesus as a religious holiday in the New Testament. Neither is there a record of it being observed by the early church during the first three Christian centuries. It was not ordained by Christ, not taught as doctrine by His apostles and not observed by the early Christians. If authorization to observe the birthday of Jesus did not come from God, from Jesus, or from the teachings of the Holy Spirit, given by inspiration through the apostles, then it can only be of men. There is no other conclusion that can be drawn – the religious observance of "Christmas" must originate with men and therefore it is a vain religious practice. The Word "Christmas" comes from "Christ Mass" or the "Mass of Christ". A "mass" is a Catholic observance of the Eucharist, or "Lord's Supper."

The “Christ Mass” is the religious observance of the Eucharist to honor the birth of Jesus. The “Christ Mass” is observed by the Catholic church on December 25th, regardless of what day of the week it falls upon. The “Christmas Holiday” originated with the Catholic church centuries after the apostolic era.

World Book Encyclopedia: “Bishop Liberious of Rome in 354 A.D. ordered that December 25th be adopted as the birth date of Christ.”

Encyclopedia Britannica: “Liberius gave this reason for having “Christmas”: ‘We have a Mass for every Saint, but there is no Mass for Christ’.”

The New Chaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge: “The pagan festival (Brumalia, Dec. 25) with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit or in manner. Christian preachers of the West and the nearer East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ’s birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival. Yet the festival rapidly gained acceptance and became at last so firmly established that even the Protestant revolution of the sixteenth century was not able to dislodge it.”

Our denominational friends say, with the best of intentions, “Let’s put Christ back into Christmas!” However, they need to realize that Christ was never in Christmas. And so it is that at this time of the year we must ask ourselves, “Do we want to be the church that one reads of in the New Testament?!”

Do we want to be like that God-fearing, Bible believing, Bible teaching, speaking where the Bible speaks – silent where the Bible is silent – church that Jesus died to save? Or do we want to be like the rest of the world around us and celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday?” I believe that if we were to observe “Christmas” as a religious holiday, we would then be guilty of the same kind of vain religion that the Jesus spoke of in Mat. 15:7-9.

We must also ask ourselves, “Which is more important? Christ’s birth? Or, Christ’s Death?” His birth is mentioned in the gospel accounts; therefore, we ought to study those scriptures. However, we must also realize that Jesus was not simply born to live on this earth – perpetually the “Babe-in-the-Manger”. Jesus was born to die for our sins. 1Cor. 15:3-4 “...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.” Jesus was born to live and set an example that we are to follow. 1Pet. 2:21 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.” His virgin birth fulfilled prophecy, provided proof that He is the Messiah, and began the final stage of the God’s plan to redeem man, which culminated with His death.

People love the “Babe-in-the-Manger” because He condemns no one, judges no one and teaches us only that God loved us enough to send His Only-Begotten Son. The man that the “Babe-in-the-Manger” grew into is not so popular because He condemns and judges all those who do not keep His commandments and all those who practice vain religion. Jn.12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” Today, the rest of the religious world is focused solely upon the “Babe-in-the-Manger”. Yet today let us focus on the teachings, doctrines and commandments of the “Man-on-the-Cross” And let us be especially mindful of the horrible death He suffered to redeem us, as we partake of the Lord’s Supper – that divinely appointed religious observance we recognize every first day-of-the-week, even when it falls on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

Note: Even though “Christmas” as a religious holiday is vain religion, December 25th is great as a secular holiday. What could be wrong with giving gifts to and spending time with the people you love the most in the world? What could be wrong with spreading good cheer and hanging stockings? Putting up trees and decorating them? Eating turkey on a paid holiday? Getting your picture taken with Santa? Standing under the mistletoe with your wife or husband? These are all wonderful things that we can enjoy at “Christmas” time. As far as secular holidays go, to quote an old TV commercial, “It doesn’t get any better than this!”

Happy Holidays Everyone! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy and blessed New Year. May God bless us all, everyone

## When You're Ready to be Baptized By J. Randal Matheny

You're ready to be baptized when you know that only in Jesus Christ can your sins be forgiven and you be returned to the presence of God, Ep 1.7.

You're ready to be baptized when you believe in Jesus as God in the flesh, the One appointed to die in our place, the Risen one who will come again, Jn 8.24; 2Tm 3.15.

You're ready to be baptized when you decide to abandon the old life of sin and live a holy life by imitating the Lord Jesus, Lk 24.46-47; Ac 2.38.

You're ready to be baptized when you are willing to publicly declare yourself to be one of Jesus' followers even in the face of death, Rm 10.10; Rv 2.10.

You're ready to be baptized when you understand the reason for baptism, as burial into Christ's death, to have your sins washed away by his blood, Rm 6.1-4; Ac 22.16.

You're ready to be baptized when you accept participating in the suffering of Christ in order that the gospel may be spread, 1Pt 2.9-12.

You're ready to be baptized when you are committed to showing sincere and earnest love to your Christian family, 1Pt 1.22.

### CHAPMAN DECEMBER 25TH SERVICES:

Sunday Bible Class:

10:00-10:20AM

Sunday Morning Service: 10:30AM

No Sunday Evening Service

#### 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

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Gene & Tripp Yancey, Dawn Stroupe, Juan Stroupe, Pat Shackelford, John Luke Hopper

•**HOSPICE:** Grady Chandler (Mickey’s Father)

•**SURGERY:** Josephine Chapman, Connie Davis (Foot)

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Trevor Shinall, Dawn Jackson’s Nephew- 8 yrs. Old (leukemia) Cards may be sent to 507 Cumberland Place, Oxford, MS 38655.

Sandra Hopper, Courtney Cissom, George Doss (Kelly Brewer’s Father), Ed James Pannell, Connie Mauney, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford’s Sister), Tony Morrison, Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.

•**CANCER:** Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Lyle Bullock, Carolyn Medlin, Lanny Yancey, Niani Colom-Omotesa, Kenneth Rainey, Marilyn Harrell, Janice Willingham, Wayne Crabb, Lester Wommack, Grady Chandler, Doug Pannell, Don Allen Riggs (19, student at FU from El Paso, TX), has stage 3 cancer. Cards may be sent to Target House 1, 1811 Poplar Ave, Apt. 211, Memphis, TN 38104), Sam Camp, Sam Warrington (cystic fibrosis & leukemia), Rodney Hilliard, Sue Mauney, Wade Hodges, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, 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:* Bonnie Chapman, Lorene Daily, Christine Chapman (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*).