

**December 30, 2018**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Announcements**

Randell Koon

**Song Leader**

Brad McAlister

**Scripture Reading**

Chase Chapman

**Opening Prayer**

J C Newby (A.M.) Young Men(P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Bobby Bridge (A.M.) Young Men (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Bryan Davis (Presiding),

Mason McAlister, Tripp Yancey, Rickey Loveless

**Count and Usher**

Terry Chapman & Joel Moore

**Prepare Communion**

Myra Palmer and Romia Palmer

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Chance Criswell (01/02/19)

**OUR RECORD**

**December 23, 2018**

Sunday Bible Study: 122

Sunday Morning Worship: 142

Sunday Evening Worship: 114

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 99

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$4,136

**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](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).



# THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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

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

**GOD'S GIFT**  
**Mark Lindley**

Children will be filled with excitement soon as they open their long-anticipated Christmas gifts. Those carefully wrapped gifts have been held, shaken, and examined by eager children trying to get clues. But soon all surprises will be revealed! What a fun time of year!

Those of us who enjoy giving "good gifts" to our children are in this manner, like God. Jesus said, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:11). God gives gifts that not only are "good," but also are "perfect." James wrote, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

In fact, God gave a gift so great that it is "indefinable." Paul wrote concerning God's gift: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Corinthians 9:15). The word "unspeakable" means that God's amazing gift is indefinable. The gift is so precious and wonderful that its value cannot be adequately described.

But what could it be? What gift could be so prized and esteemed that the Lord's apostle, Paul, affirmed he could not describe it? It is the gift of Jesus!

As Paul expressed gratitude for the unspeakable gift of Jesus, we should be ever-grateful for the gift of God's dear Son. Without the gift of Jesus, there could be no forgiveness of sins, and no hope of heaven (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7; John 14:6).

Sometimes, a Christmas gift may be exchanged because the gift was too large or small, the wrong kind or color. However, God's gift of Christ is a perfect fit for every responsible person, world-wide. Jesus is the perfect fit because "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). The only remedy for sin is the blood of Jesus (Revelation 1:5). Therefore, God's gift is perfectly suited to meet our greatest need—to be saved from sin.

Gifts received at Christmas may wear out, lose their use, and be thrown away. On the other hand, the gift of Jesus is an enduring gift, one that will never fade, lose its purpose or value. If we live to be a hundred years old, we will never reach a time we do not need the Lord. We need his blessings, fellowship, love, and forgiveness daily.

Many gifts will be given during the holiday season. However, no gift could ever exceed or equal God's unspeakable gift. The gift of Christ is received by believing and obeying the gospel (Mark 16:15-16). Please be certain that you have received God's gift, and never take it for granted!

## Putting First Things First By R. W. McAlister

Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." This may come as a shock, but most of us fail to do this! Why? Because instead of seeking God's kingdom first, we're spending our time wrapped up in the cares of this world! Have you ever considered that if this one passage were followed to its proper conclusion, it would revolutionize the church in all its phases of activity? If we sought first the kingdom of God in attendance, we'd be here every time the doors opened if physically possible! If we sought first the kingdom of God in evangelism, every baptized believer would be speaking the truth in love to every lost soul he or she encountered! If we sought first the kingdom of God in our giving, the church treasury would be overflowing! If we sought first the kingdom of God in edification and encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ, there'd be a lot more folks in the mold of Barnabas to build up and encourage our brethren!

Perhaps the most common sin today is that of reversing the divine order of things; of making secondary things primary, and making primary things secondary. How many people do we or have we known who disregard the importance of attending evening services? Instead, they're at work because they'd rather make a dollar, or they're at home because they think their rest is more important and so on. They've made what should be a primary concern a secondary one. What about someone who holds back on putting money in the collection plate because he's worried about finances?

Well, he turned a primary concern, indeed an act of worship, into a secondary concern when he put personal finances ahead of worshiping God. It seems incredible that God, who made me, and gave His Son to die for me, should give me the option of saying what place HE shall occupy in my life.

If we're going to be pleasing to God, we each have some "first things" to do. We have to seek the kingdom first, then all of the things we need will be added to us. Seeking the kingdom first means becoming part of it and putting it first in our lives (I Peter 3:21, Matt. 6:33).

The second thing we have to do on our list of "firsts" is to keep our lives right with God so we can teach others. Matthew 7 verse 5 tells us: "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

We have a responsibility to make sure our brothers and sisters are walking in the way they should (II Thess. 3:15), but no one will ever listen to us until they can see that we're concerned about the sin in our life and that we're trying to get rid of it. No one likes a hypocrite.

The final thing we must do is to follow Christ before all others. In John 14:15, Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Our Savior also tells us in Revelation 2:10, "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Our dedication to the Lord must come first, before all else. We have no right to tell or expect someone to follow a leader we're not faithfully following ourselves, and friends, people are very critical and they'll know if you're a follower of Jesus Christ.

If you need to reorganize your priorities, why wait any longer? "Why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins..." (Acts 22:16).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### CHAPMAN 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY

December 30, 2018

Fellowship meal (potluck) after morning service. Evening service at 1:30 PM conducted by Chapman young men.

Please join us for  
A Baby Shower in Honor of

Jessica & Nathan Emerson

Sunday, January 6, 2019

3:30 to 4:30PM

Chapman Church of Christ –  
Fellowship Hall

It's a Girl! – Cora Lynn

Colors: Light Pink, Gray

Registered: Walmart, Target & Gift of Gab

#### PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: [chapmanchurch.com](http://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](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net))

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

- SICK SUNDAY:** Jeff Robbins
- RECOVERY:** Amber Harrell, Ruby Jones, Molly Moore, David Palmer
- HOSPITAL:** Kenneth Childs
- EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Pat Waide, Joanie Kate Reese, Carlin Johnson, Faye Jenkins, Linda Chapman, Nina Morrison, Jo Chapman, Louise Pannell, Roger Bryant (ALS), Venie Holbrook, Tony Morrison, Bobbie Prather, Sandra Hopper, Connie Mauney, Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah McGaughy, Niles Jones, Thad Berryman
- CANCER:** Kay Thompson, Cohen Hurt, Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith,, Rhonda Horton, Lanny Yancey (Treatments), Danny Yancey, Diane Hodges, Sandra Jones, Dianne Graves, Betty Faye Ledbury, Cutah Newby, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Carolyn Medlin, Niani Colom-Omotesa, Kenneth Rainey, Janice Willingham, Lester Wommack, Doug Pannell, Sam Camp, Sam Warrington (cystic fibrosis & leukemia), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Danny Edmonds, Dean McNutt, John Reno.

•**SHUT-INS:** Resthaven: **Oleta Phillips, Johnnie Carpenter** (*Mailing: Resthaven Care Center, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663*), **Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home: Lorene Daily, Christine Chapman** (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*).