

May 26, 2024

**Announcements**

Dale Vandygriff

**Song Leader**

Brad McAlister

**Scripture Reading**

Bobby Bridges

**Opening Prayer**

Terry Chapman (A.M.)  
Randell Koon (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

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

**Lord's Table**

Larry Wood

**Count and Usher**

Tim McMillin & Bryan Davis

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Brice Lindley (05/29/24)

**OUR RECORD**

May 19, 2024

Sunday Bible Study: 78  
Sunday Morning Worship: 100  
Sunday Evening Worship: 85  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 94

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:  
office.chapmanchurch@gmail.com

[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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**Chapman Church of Christ**

Ripley, Mississippi  
**(662) 502-2806**  
[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

## PERSECUTING JESUS

By Mark Lindley

The Bible teaches that Saul of Tarsus was a fierce persecutor of the church. "As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison" (Acts 8:3). On the occasion of Acts chapter 9, Saul was on his way to Damascus to persecute and arrest Christians (verses 1-3). It was on this journey that events happened which would change Saul's life forever. As he came near Damascus, a bright light shone from heaven and blinded Saul. Then the Lord spoke to Saul and asked a momentous question: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4). After Saul responded to the Lord's question, the blind man was led into the city of Damascus where Ananias instructed him to "arise and be baptized" that his sins might be washed away (Acts 22:16). Having received this instruction, Saul "arose, and was baptized" (Acts 9:18). After his conversion he became an apostle, the apostle Paul, and he served the Lord the rest of his life.

The question Jesus asked Saul—"why persecutest thou me?"—is one that deserves our careful attention. One interesting thing about the question is that, as far as we know, Saul never personally laid a hand on Jesus. Rather, he had been persecuting the church of Jesus. Nevertheless, Jesus asked, "Why persecutest thou *me*?" (emphasis mine, ML). This shows that Saul's persecution against the church was the same as assaulting Jesus. Each time Saul hurt the church, he was hurting Jesus.

This is a lesson that we all need to consider today. We cannot separate Jesus from His church because the church "is his body" (Ephesians 1:23). As a result, what we do to the church today, good or bad, we do to Jesus. Every time a person says that church membership is not essential, that person is also saying that being a member of the body of Christ is not essential. To fail to love and honor the church is to fail to love and honor Jesus.

On the other hand, when one becomes a member of the New Testament church, one becomes a member of the body of Christ because the church is the body of Christ (Colossians 1:18). When we love, honor, and support the church by faithful attendance, our prayers, our money, our time and active service, we show our love, honor, and support for Christ and His cause.

It is vital to understand that we cannot separate Christ and His church. Therefore, if we want Christ in our lives, we must make room in our lives for His church.

**The Same God**  
T. Pierce Brown

In recent years we have heard and read an increasing number of statements to the effect that almost everyone is worshipping the same God, although some may call Him Allah, others Jehovah and others by some other name. That is supposed to prove, it seems, that how we worship does not matter, and perhaps all of us have an equal chance of being saved.

The theory is wrong from start to finish, but even if it were right in its basic assumption, the conclusion does not follow. Let us try to clarify.

We wonder if those who make those statements would also continue with that idea that we all worship the same God if we added Baal, Zeus, Pluto, Jupiter and/or Beelzebub. If not, why not? The truth is that even those who claim to worship Jehovah do not really worship the same God, for a great majority of people with whom I talk do not have the God in their mind that I have, revealed in the Bible. The average person has a god that is a sort of grandfather type -- a giant of a man with white hair and benevolent eyes who loves his little children and grandchildren so much that he could not think of punishing them for anything, but is willing to spoil them and grant their every wish. The God I worship is a God that is both loving and just. He has goodness and severity (Rom. 11:22). The real God that is revealed in the Bible is an unknown God to the majority of people.

The Calvinist has a god that created men all of whom are now hereditarily and totally depraved, and arbitrarily determined that some of them are going to heaven and some are going to hell, and the number is so fixed that it cannot be changed by any choice or will or act of man.

The God that I serve made man upright and he sought out many inventions (Eccl. 7:29). He made man with freedom of choice and allows him to make the choice to serve God or Satan (Josh.24:15). It has been said that "God created man in his own image; philosophers have reversed the process; they create god in theirs." It is true, not only of philosophers, but of mankind in general.

It is important to know that the kind of god you believe in will determine, to a large degree, the kind of person you are. It is philosophically, theologically and pragmatically true that one becomes more like that which he adores and worships. Be careful that Jehovah God is your God.

**Without Excuse**  
Ron Boatwright

People are without excuse if they do not believe and obey God. Romans 1:20 says, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so they are without excuse." All we have to do is look around us and everywhere we look, including ourselves, we see the handiwork of God. None of this could have happened by "accident". Psalms 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork". We see God's handiwork all around us if we will only open our eyes. Many people do not want to see and recognize God's handiwork. Many people have believed the false doctrine of organic evolution because they don't want to believe in God. They don't want to believe in God because if they did they would have to obey Him. God's word says, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting" (Romans 1:28).

God is all powerful. Isaiah 40:22 says, "It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers." Isaiah was inspired of God to write in about 700 B.C. that the earth was round or a circle. Man thought the earth was flat. Man did not discover the earth was round until more than 2000 years after Isaiah was written. The Bible is always totally accurate in all that it says because it was inspired by an all-knowing all-powerful God.

Today we live in a land where we can no longer discuss God or the Bible in the classroom. Satan's task is to try to separate man from the Bible by replacing Scripture with the lies of Satan. In this Satan has been quite successful with the vast majority of people. This battle with Satan is very serious because souls are at stake.

When one rejects God's word as found in the Bible, the door to Heaven has been slammed shut, and the only door left open is that which leads into the flaming fire of Hell of which there is no escape. When one stands before the Lord in Judgment, he will be without excuse, because he chose to go there. We individually cast the deciding vote as to where we will spend eternity. We determine our own destiny. Man is a free moral agent. We have the choice as to either obey God or not to obey God. But our choice has consequences. Hell has a beginning, but it has no ending. Those who are lost in Hell will only have themselves to blame and will be without excuse, because they chose to go there. Let's choose to believe and obey God so we can live with Him forever in Heaven. The choice is ours.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY**  
CAN BE PICKED UP IN THE FOYER.  
*ONE PER FAMILY. If you need help with directory App please let Caleb know.*

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**JUNE 23-26, 2024**

10 AM Bible Study  
10:45 AM Worship  
2 PM Evening Service  
*(VBS after Evening Service)*

**Mon-Wed 6 PM to 7:30 PM**  
SIGN UP SHEET BY TEACHER'S SUPPLY ROOM

### FIFTH SUNDAY

**JUNE 30, 2024**

NO FELLOWSHIP MEAL  
2 PM 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

*IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY:*  
*Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Robert Kingsley.*

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

**SICK AT HOME:** Sammie & James Pilgrim, Wilma Wood, Connie Koon, Idaleigh McVey

**HOSPITAL:** Sarina Tigrett - Parents: Kane & Anna (LeBonhuer- heart. 5 months old) - improving

**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Joanie Kate Reese, Garrison Coats, Joe Clark, George Doss, Thad Berryman, John Walker Perry, Juanita Michael

**CANCER:)** Tiny Willis, Dorothy Hopper (John's Mother) Billy McBryde (Rita Smith's Father), George Doss (Kelly Brewer's Father), Deborah Williams (Kim Lindley's Aunt), Ralph Shaw (Janie Chapman's Son-in-law), Loxlee Eaton, David South, Eddie Mauney, Haley Loveless, Sidra Davis, Tish Clark, Kevin Clifton, Austin Wentz, Betty Faye Ledbury

**SHUT-INS:** *Tippah County Health & Rehab:* Romia Palmer, Jimmy Berryman,

### TEXT ALERTS

Text **chapmancoc** to **8779897012** to receive Chapman's Text Alerts.

**Sermons available on Facebook and YouTube**