

**December 27, 2015
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Kevin Shackelford

Song Leader

Johnny Cissom

Scripture Reading

Jordan Staggs

Opening Prayer

Randell Koon (A.M.) Michael Criswell (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Dalton Beard (A.M.) John Hopper (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Terry Chapman (Presiding),

Britt Lindley, Andy Reese, Bobby Bridges

Count and Usher

Chance Criswell

Ross Shackelford

Prepare Communion

Myra and Anna Palmer

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Logan Yancey (12/30/15)

OUR RECORD

December 20, 2015

Sunday Bible Study: 108

Sunday Morning Worship: 124

Sunday Evening Worship: 128

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 87

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,813

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

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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THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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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

HOW SAFE IS YOUR TREASURE?

Gerald Cowan

(Minister of the church of Christ at Dongola, IL)

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
Matthew 6:21

It was December 17, 1903. Orville and Wilbur Wright, owners of a bicycle sales and repair shop in Dayton, Ohio had just made the first self-powered flight in an airplane, against a 27 mile and hour wind, in Kittyhawk, North Carolina. They sent a telegram to their sister in Dayton: "First sustained flight, 59 seconds. Home for Christmas." Elated at their success, their sister took the telegram to the local newspaper. Next day, on page 16, just below the obituaries, the paper ran this notice: "Local bicycle merchants are to spend the holidays at home." Can you believe it? It was truly one of the great events of the century, an event that would change the course of world history. But they missed it! They had the information in their hands, but they missed it – they did not understand and appreciate its significance.

Roy Whetstone (as reported in Newsweek, November 24, 1986) bought a "rock" from a "rock hound" at a mineral show in Arizona. Paid him \$10.00 for it. That "rock" was the largest sapphire known in the world at that time, valued at \$2.28 million. Do you wonder how the finder and first owner could possibly have missed it? Why did he not recognize what he had in his hand? Do you suppose he spent a lot of time "kicking himself" because of his error? Of course he might be able to buy it back, but not for \$10.00.

How many people have or have access to some great treasure, or some piece of information that could change the course of their lives forever – but they do not recognize it or appreciate its worth. So they ignore it. They let a great treasure slip through their fingers, and are often unable to regain possession of it. Treasure is "real treasure" to a person only if he has eyes to see it, only if one is able to recognize it for what it is (Mt. 13:44-46).

How many parents know the real value of their children? How many children really understand the value of godly parents? How many men and women realize the great treasure they have in a godly wife or husband?

What value do you place on your copy of the Bible? If it was stolen or misplaced, when would you become aware of it? If you are just talking about the literal book – you may have paid \$25-100 for it in a bookshop – then the loss isn't all that great and can be easily replaced. But the real treasure of the Bible is its contents, the words of God. What if those words were taken away and you never had access to them again? Would you realize what was lost? We need to have the values of Job, who said, "I have treasured the words of the Lord's mouth more than my daily bread" (Job 23:12).

What value do you place upon the church, both the world-wide church and the local congregation of it? The price Jesus Christ paid for it is something nobody else can ever pay: the life of a perfectly innocent and sinless man who was willing to pay the price (Acts 20:28). All the saved are in it (Acts 2:47, Eph. 5:23). All who remain outside it are eternally lost (2 Thess. 1:8). What if the church in your community disappeared and you had no access to it ever again? Would you realize what you had lost?

Of course the greatest treasure to any person is his own soul – worth more than a paltry \$2.28 million, or any other dollar figure you could come up with. It is worth more to the person than all the world put together (Mt. 16:24-26). And we have in our hands the information about how to save the soul, how to secure it for eternity (Mark 16:15f, Acts 2:38f, 2 Peter 1:1-11). We know how to help each other to praise God and our Savior, the Christ in his church and how to help each one secure his own soul in the fellowship of the Lord's people (Eph. 4:11-16). Tragically, most people in the world will be eternally embarrassed and eternally remorseful because, by ignoring the word of God and the church of the Lord, they lost their greatest treasure, their own eternal soul. I hope you will not be one of them.

Tidings of J.O.Y. Bubba Garner

The late Marvin Zindler always ended his Friday news segment on Channel 13 with the same words: "Have a good weekend – good golf, good tennis, or whatever makes you happy."

Whatever makes you happy. We are a culture committed to that concept. Whether it's how you use your time, how you spend your money, or what you do with your body, the main objective is your own happiness. Even if it means that others are hurt in the process or certain principles are violated along the way, as long as it makes you happy.

This is no new philosophy. When the thirteen American colonies declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote that all men were endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights such as "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." But therein lies the problem. It is a pursuit. It's just beyond your grasp. Right around the corner. Over the next hill. It's what Solomon refers to in Ecclesiastes as "striving after wind" (Eccl. 1:14).

Happiness, as the word suggests, depends on what happens. When something goes well, you're happy about it. If not, you're not. Life is like that. It has highs and lows, peaks and valleys. Just when you think everything is coming together, an emergency arises that can change your priorities in a heartbeat. Is there anything steady and stable that gives you something to hold on to amid all the good and bad happenings of life?

Enter joy. Joy is a constant that helps you keep your perspective in prosperity and your perseverance in adversity. It is the realization that no matter what happens, God is still your Father and heaven is still your home. While happiness may come and go, you can "rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil. 4:4).

How do you get joy? And keep it? The answer is in the word itself. I don't remember who first showed me this acronym, but I will never forget its impact on my life.

J - Jesus
O - Others
Y - Yourself

In other words, J.O.Y. is found when you arrange your priorities this way.

1. Jesus. Putting Him first is something that God has demanded throughout the Scriptures. The very first commandment given to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai was "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Ex. 20:3). He was the God who brought them out of Egypt; He had the right to tolerate no rivals.

Jesus also said to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). Don't forget the context in which this verse is found. Instead of being anxious about things you need, seek God and trust Him that "all these things shall be added to you." In so doing, faith and joy will replace worry and fear. You will never be able to "rejoice in the Lord always" until you elevate the Lord to the place that is rightfully His.

2. Others. When you seek God first, you will want to become more like Him and follow in the steps of His Son. You will be drawn to passages like, "Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who... emptied Himself, taking the form of bond-servant" (Phil. 2:4-5).

When you make Jesus' life the pattern for your life, your eyes will be opened to people who need what you have to offer. And you'll find no greater joy than in loving the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and loving your neighbor as yourself.

3. Yourself. Ironic, isn't it? Conventional wisdom says to put yourself first and look out for #1 if you want to be happy. But the wisdom that is from above assures us "whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted" (Matt. 23:12).

Put yourself last. It's what servants do. And when you do, don't look around for your reward or acknowledgment. Just know that you have done only that which you ought to have done (Luke 17:10). And be certain that eternal joy awaits.

J.O.Y. It's for every season. What a great gift from God!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAPMAN FOURTH QUARTER BIRTHDAYS
(OCT-DEC)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

After Evening Services

The Lads to Leaders would like to invite those who have a birthday October-December to stay after church services Sunday Night for cake and ice cream for you and your family in the Fellowship Hall.

Please make plans to attend.

Happy Holidays

Isaiah 40:30-31

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

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 Grey Roberson, Jeffery Jinkerson (friend of Mallory Chapman/Winston Smith), Yater Shinall (Father of Dawn Jackson)

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Josephine Chapman

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Brad Strickland (Corinth/Heart), Louise Pannell (Mother of Sharon Pannell)

•**HOME RECOVERING :**Sandy Newby

•**HAVING TEST:** Robin Chapman, Juanita Micheal

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Connie Mauney, Shelby Cissom, Erik Longoria, Randall Hancock (Liver & Kidney Transplant - Dawn Stroupe's Father), Taylor Crawford, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford's Sister), Tony Morrison, Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.

•**CANCER:** Grady Chandler, Lorie Christian, Deborah Gullick (Mother of Stephanie McAlister, Bo & Brian Chapman), 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, Bob Shelton, Sue Mauney, Wade Hodges, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Merida Bane (Barrett & Starrett Chapman's Sister), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Ann Bennett, Danny Edmonds, Dean McNutt, John Reno, Ruth Greer, Margie James.

•**SHUT-INS:** Resthaven: Oleta Phillips (Mailing: Resthaven Care Center, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663), Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home: Bonnie Chapman, Lorene Willis, Lorene Daily, Christine Chapman, Pauline McBryde (Rita Smith's Grandmother) (Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663).