

**September 11, 2016
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

J C Newby

Song Leader

Chris Moore

Scripture Reading

Britt Lindley

Opening Prayer

Johnny Cissom (A.M.) John Hopper (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Ricky Cissom (A.M.) Terry Chapman (P.M.)

Lord's Table

David Smith (Presiding),

Eli Carter, Ross Shackelford, Mason McAlister

Count and Usher

Bobby Bridges & Danny Shackelford

Prepare Communion

Kathy Moore & Shelia Criswell

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Jack Harris (09/14/16)

OUR RECORD

September 4, 2016

Sunday Bible Study: 140

Sunday Morning Worship: 153

Sunday Evening Worship: 119

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 117

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,995

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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RIPLEY, MS 38663
Address Service Requested

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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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

“That Ye May be Able to Bear It”

Mike Gifford

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (I Corinthians 10:13).

The passage above is full of comforting truths. God is faithful. As Christians, we will not be pushed by temptation beyond our limits. As Christians, we have a way to escape available to us when we are tempted. The final phrase is the focus of this article. The focus is not so much on the way to escape as it is on the purpose for God providing a way to escape. This way is given to us so that we can bear with the temptation.

Notice that this is not a promise of removal of the temptation. The Lord through Paul did not say that our trials will be taken away. Paul himself knew this. In II Corinthians 11:23-28 he wrote of the perils he constantly faced in his service to God. Shortly after cataloging these troubles, he wrote of one specific difficulty that plagued him. His “thorn in the flesh” burdened him so that he begged the Lord on three different occasions to remove it from him (II Corinthians 12:8). God did not, however, take away the thorn. If the “way to escape” was elimination of a trial or trials, then it would seem that God was not fulfilling His promise to Paul to remove this particular challenge. We might also consider Jesus’ request in the Garden of Gethsemane to “remove this cup from me” (Luke 22:42) and the Father’s denial of same. God has always had a way of escape for the faithful, but the purpose did not necessarily involve removal of the trouble.

The word “bear” means “to bear by being under, bear up (a thing placed on one’s shoulders), to bear patiently, to endure.” As long as we live in the flesh, we are going to have difficulties. Our bodies are going to wear out. We might suffer financial hardship, family stress or a host of other challenges. As Christians, we WILL be confronted by trials. “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (II Timothy 3:12). As soon as one challenge ends, another may pop up. Some trials may be brief while others may linger. As long as we’re in this imperfect world, we will face temptation. There is a way of escape, however, and while that way does not ensure removal from trials, it does guarantee relief from them so that we can handle them.

How does God's way of escape provide relief? Take any one of the avenues that the Lord offers for escape. Take prayer, Bible study, worship or fellowship and notice one attribute that is common among them. When we pray, we turn our focus to God and away from our burdens. When we immerse ourselves in a study of God's Word, we do the same. This is also true when we are engaged in worship and when we surround ourselves with faithful Christians. These are just four escape routes that God has provided. Undoubtedly there are many more but they each bear the same characteristics. They each redirect our hearts from earthly troubles to heavenly glories. Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." The word "refuge" has reference to a shelter to which one would go in times of storm. A refuge is a place to which one can go to get away from danger, at least for a little time. In other words, it is a place of escape. God is the refuge. God is the place of escape, if you will. Rechanneling our thoughts toward Him through the means which He has provided allows us to escape from our trials, if only for a few moments. Those few moments, however, can be just the lift we need to be able to endure our challenges. We can emerge from our respite refreshed and ready to renew the battle.

The purpose of God's way to escape is not necessarily to remove our trials, but to help us endure them. So often we just need a break from difficulties. God provides that for us. Let us seek and find these times of relief so that we can continue on our journey toward eternal life.

A Leap Into the Dark?
Eric Lyons

One of the most abused verses in all of Scripture is 2 Corinthians 5:7: "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Often, those who "expound" upon the apostle Paul's statement explain that faith implies something less than knowledge—that is, they teach that we must accept evidence blindly and take a "leap of faith." Many so-called teachers and preachers, when commenting on 2 Corinthians 5:7, argue for a separation of faith and facts. German theologian Hans Kung upheld this idea of "biblical" faith when he wrote: "Even in faith, then, there is no certainty entirely free from doubt. In faith, we must commit ourselves to something uncertain" (1980, p. 61). Similar to Kung's ideas about faith is the statement of televangelist Robert Schuller, who suggested: "Faith is a commitment to an unprovable assumption" (1984). If these men are correct, faith is either something based on no proof at all or something composed of a small amount of knowledge and a big dose of uncertainty that allows men to "act like" they know something when, in fact, they do not. Is this the kind of faith to which Paul was referring when he wrote his second epistle to the Corinthians?

Second Corinthians 5:7 is both amplified and clarified by verse 16 of that same chapter: "Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer." In other words, in the past Jesus had been present in the flesh, and hence could be known by sight. But, at the time Paul wrote his letters to the Corinthians, the situation had changed—Christ no longer was on the Earth. Thus, the apostle Paul clarified his statement about not walking "by sight" with the phrase "now we know Him thus no longer." Of course, Christ still could be known, but not "after the flesh." Had Paul written 2 Corinthians while Christ still was living upon the Earth, these passages (5:7,16) never would have been included among his remarks. But since they were written at some point after Christ's ascension, Paul therefore was compelled to make the comparison he did in 2 Corinthians 5:7.

His point, quite simply, was this. There was a time when faith and sight went together. That is to say, at one time in history, men walked by faith because of sight (cf. John 4:41; 20:25-29). However, eventually followers of Jesus possessed a faith in Him that was not based upon sight, but instead upon such things as credible testimony, deduction, and revelation. Jesus indicated His approval of those whose faith is based upon knowledge gained in ways other than by sight when he told "doubting" Thomas: "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:29).

Today, Christians can have a genuine faith without sight, thanks to such things as credible testimony from reliable eyewitnesses (such as Peter, James, John, and Paul) and other means of knowledge that are not necessarily dependent upon having personally seen something firsthand (cf. 1 Peter 1:8-9). All of us believe in people, places, and events that we never have seen personally, yet that does not diminish their factuality. Nor does the absence of "sight" weaken the faith routinely produced via credible testimony from people of the past who did witness such things. Truly, one may "walk by faith, not by sight," and still possess knowledge-based faith.

One thing is for sure: the Bible nowhere discusses or recognizes the legitimacy of any concept such as a "leap of faith."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapman Singing
September 11
Golden Living
at 2 PM

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT
Maren Harper Cox
September 1, 2016
6 pounds 1 ounces - 18 inches
Parents; Wesley & Devan Cox
Great-Grandparents: Larry & Joy Simmons

Chapman Ladies Bible Class
Thursday, September 15 - 6:30

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

•**HOME SICK:** Everett Hurt, Gerohn Childs, Tony & Jane Morrison, Jimmy & Joan Berryman

•**IN REHAB:** Guy Stroupe (Golden Living)

•**IN TEST/SURGERY:** Margie Hurt, Juan Stroupe, Charley Shackelford, Carol Wommack

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Trevor Shinall(Dawn Jackson's Nephew- 8 yrs. old -LeBonheur/ leukemia) Cards may be sent to 507 Cumberland Place, Oxford, MS 38655. Marty Russell (Heart-Son-in-law of Johnny & Gearlene Cissom)

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** George Coats, George Doss (Kelly Brewer's Father), Guy Stroupe, Willie Jeanes, Ed James Pannell, Connie Mauney, Randall Hancock (Liver & Kidney Transplant - Dawn Stroupe's Father), Taylor Crawford, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford's Sister), Tony Morrison, Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.

•**CANCER:** Carolyn Medlin, Lanny Yancey, Niani Colom-Omotesa, Kenneth Rainey, Marilyn Harrell, Janice Willingham, Wayne Crabb, Lester Wommack, 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, Sue Mauney, Wade Hodges, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Merida Bane (Barrett & Starrett Chapman's Sister), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, 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 Daily, Christine Chapman (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*).