October 25, 2026

Announcements
Kevin Shackelford

Song Leader
Chris Moore

Scripture Reading
Mason McAlister

Opening Prayer
John Hopper (A.M.)
Rickey Cissom (P.M.)

Closing Prayer
J C Newby (A.M.)
Rickey Loveless (P.M.)

Lord's Table
Larry Wood

Count and Usher
Bobby Bridges & Tavin Fitzgerald

Wednesday Night Song Leader
Larry Wood (10/28/26)

OUR RECORD
October 18, 2026
Sunday Bible Study: --
Sunday Morning Worship: --
Sunday Evening Worship: --
Wednesday Night Bible Study: --

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL
Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:
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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

Published Weekly by
Chapman Church of Christ
Ripley, Mississippi
(662) 502-2806
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**

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL
Mark Lindley

If you were asked to list some of the most important characteristics of a child of God, which characteristics would you list? Many of us would quickly affirm that a child of God is one who attends worship services faithfully, gives to the church generously, and is pure in morals. These are qualities which should not be minimized, because they certainly are vital. However, when Jesus was speaking to the religious leaders of His day about the qualities they needed to demonstrate, He said they had omitted the "the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith" (Matthew 23:23).

Perhaps mercy is one of the most under-rated qualities of God's children, and yet it is one that is so desperately needed. Jesus said, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). The Lord's statement makes it obvious that those who hope to obtain mercy must show it to others.

A good one-word definition of mercy is "compassion." To demonstrate mercy is "to help one who is afflicted or seeking aid." Mercy is "compassion in action," and the world is full of people who need compassion. Christians need to show mercy to those who are sick. Remember the words of Jesus: "I was sick, and ye visited me" (Matthew 25:36). We hear of so many who are sick with various illnesses and diseases that we may become less compassionate and inattentive to their needs, but if we or a loved one has ever been very sick or in the hospital for a lengthy stay, we will always remember those who showed compassion by phone calls, sending cards, giving money, or simply stopping by for a brief visit.

Christians should show mercy to the suffering. Suffering may be caused by the death of a loved one, family and marriage problems, financial set-backs, or loneliness. Paul instructs Christians to suffer with other church members who suffer (I Corinthians 12:26), and to "do good unto all men" (Galatians 6:10). Opportunities abound for Christians to show compassion for those who are suffering.

Christians should also show mercy to those ensnared in sin. Jesus did not condemn a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery; rather, He said, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). He identified the woman's adultery as "sin," but he was willing to extend mercy and forgive. Jesus also taught that if one has been sinned against personally—even seven times in one day—and the sinner repents, then the one sinned against is to forgive (Luke 17:3-4).

On the final Day of Judgment, all who read these words will desire mercy. That sobering thought should inspire us all to show mercy to the sick, suffering, and to those entangled in sin. Only the merciful….will receive mercy.

BIBLE PREACHERS: PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL AND FELIX

James Pilgrim

"On the morrow" after Paul made his "defence" for what he had done, he stood before the council to give another one. (Acts 21:40; 22:1, 40). He said, "I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth." (Acts 23:1, 2). Paul rebuked Ananias, "And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest?" (Verses 3, 4). Paul, immediately told them that he did it through ignorance, saying, "I wot not" (Verse 5), that is, I know/knew not.

Paul then identified himself as a Pharisee, son of a Pharisee, and saying that he was being judged for believing in the hope and resurrection of the dead. (Verse 6).This caused a great dissension between the Pharisees, who believed in a resurrection, spirit, and angel, and Sadducees, who did not believe in either one. (Acts 23:7, 8). The Pharisaical scribes, believing Paul to be innocent, caused a great dissension when they called for him to be released, lest they be found to fight against God. (Verse 9). Rightfully believing that Paul was in danger, the chief captain sent soldiers to bring Paul by force into the castle. (Verse 10).

The next night the Lord stood by Paul, and promised him safety, telling Paul that he would preach Him in Rome, as he had in Jerusalem. (Verse 11). When daylight came, over 40 "Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul." (Verses 12). How hungry and thirsty they would have gotten. They told the chief priests and elders, proposing a seemingly spotless plan. (Verses 14, 15). However, the plans of mice and men sometimes go awry! Paul's nephew heard of the plot, and he told Paul, who advised him to tell the chief captain, which he did.

The chief captain sent 200 soldiers, 70 horsemen, and 200 spearmen, plus beasts to set Paul on to bring Paul safely unto Felix the governor, along with a letter proclaiming Paul's innocence. (Acts 23:16-24). The soldiers did as told. (Acts 23:31-35). Paul was kept in Herod's judgment hall. (Acts 23:35).

"After five days Ananias the high priest descended with the elders, and with a certain orator named Tertullus, who informed the governor against Paul", accusing Paul of "being a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes: who hath gone about to profane the temple:…." (Acts 24:1, 5, 6). He further said they would have handled the situation, but the chief captain Lysias took him. (Verses 6-8) "The Jews also assented, saying that these things were so." (Verse 9).

Felix motioned to Paul to speak, who said, "I do the more cheerfully answer for myself." (Verse 10). He told of going up to Jerusalem to worship, and saying, "Neither can they prove any of the things whereof they now accuse me." (Verses 11-13). Paul described his worship as being "the way", involving "believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets. And have hope toward God, which they they themselves also allow…a resurrection…of the just and unjust." (Verses 14, 15; John 5:28, 29). Paul described his conscience as "void of offence toward God, and… man." (Verse 16). Paul then again proclaimed his innocence, saying that his accusers should have been present with evidence. (Verses 17-21).

Felix said he would wait to hear from Lysias the chief captain. (Verse 22). He then commanded a centurion to keep Paul, giving him liberty, allowing any of his acquaintances to minister or come to him. (Verse 23). He then heard Paul concerning "the faith in Christ… righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come," but did not obey. (Acts 24:24, 25). Felix sent for Paul often looking for a bribe, "that he might loose him." However, Paul was more honorable, which meant more time bound. (Verse 26, 27).

UPCOMING EVENTS

SLEEPING BAGS NEEDED

The **World Ukraine Mission** is in need of sleeping bags for children. Please leave them on the tables by the Teacher's Supply Room.

Deadline is October 31st.

TRUNK-R-TREAT
OCTOBER 31st 5:30 PM

FALL FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY
NOVEMBER 8TH
10 AM - BIBLE STUDY
10:45 - AM WORSHIP
12 NOON - FELLOWSHIP MEAL
1:30 PM - EVENING SERVICE

RIPLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
FALL TENNESSIPPI YOUTH NIGHT
"WHO AM I TO GOD"
November 1, 2026
Speaker: Winston Smith

PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: chapmanchurch.com
Articles • Sermons (Audio) • Chapman Challengers

The Bible Broadcast
Sunday Mornings at 8 AM
• WKZU radio 104.9 FM & WSKK radio 102.3 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 - 662-502-2806 , write -250 CR 550, Ripley, MS 38663) or e-mail office.chapmanchurch@gmail.com

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Lisa Bullock** (Robin Criswell's step-sister).

✥**SICK SUNDAY:** Sandy Newby, Tavin Fitzgerald, James Pilgrim, Karen Yancey

✥**IN HOSPITAL:** Juanita Michael

✥**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Myra Palmer (back), Mallory Smith (heart), Johnathon Ledbury (brain- Larry Wood's great-nephew), Samuel Pilgrim (hip- James & Sammie's son), Rhonda Newby (Connie Koon's sister)

✥**HAVING TEST:** Holly Madugula (Robin Chapman's sister)

✥**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Juan Stroupe, Kathy Ratliff (Stroke), Jerry South, Caleb McAlister, Garrison Coats, Thad Berryman, John Walker Perry

✥**CANCER:** Mary Ann Kirkman, Renea Roberts, Lynita Davis, Dennis Hopper, (John's Father), Billy McBryde (Rita Smith's Father), Harold Hankins, Dewayne Morgan, Teresa Rhea, Rosie Marie Greer (Jane Morrison's Sister), Belinda Lucy (Jane Morrison's Niece)

✥**SHUT-INS:** ***Home:*** Janie Chapman, Juanita Michael ***Tippah County Health & Rehab:*** Romia Palmer, Mike Stroupe

Sermons available on Facebook and YouTube