

August 17, 2014
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Kevin Shackelford

Song Leader

Johnny Cissom

Scripture Reading

Jordan Staggs

Opening Prayer

Larry Wood (A.M.) Tom Wade (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Gene Yancey (A.M.) Ross Shackelford (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Andy Reece (Presiding),

Michiel Criswell, Evan Yancey, Joel Moore

Count and Usher

Eric Melton and David Smith

Prepare Communion

Kim Lindley and Sandy Newby

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Chris Moore (08/20/14)

OUR RECORD

August 10, 2014

Sunday Bible Study: 132

Sunday Morning Worship: 138

Sunday Evening Worship: 97

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 110

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,527

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

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chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

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).

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THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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

THE GOLDEN TEXT OF THE BIBLE

Mark Lindley

Some refer to John 3:16 as the “Golden Text” of the Bible. Without question, this is one of the most heart-warming passages in the Bible: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

From this text we learn about the marvelous love of God. It is difficult for finite human beings to fully grasp the depth of the love of God. Consider the two-letter word “so.” The Scripture says that God “so” loved. The word “so” in this sentence is an adverb indicating the degree to which God loved us. Yet, how could we understand love so deep that it would cause God to send His only-begotten Son into the world to die for the sins of others?

If you are a parent or grand-parent, can you imagine giving your precious child to die for folks who were ungodly? God has blessed me with three sons, and I cannot fathom giving even one of them to die for a good man, much less a person who is ungodly. But God did. He had only “one” Son, and He gave His only Son to die in agony on the cross that sinners might be saved.

From this text we also learn that salvation is conditional. That is, God has given conditions which sinners must meet in order to be saved. In John 3:16, we learn that the ones who “believeth” are the ones who should not perish. The term “believeth” in this passage does not mean that one must merely accept the fact that Jesus is the Savior and that He died on the cross. Rather, the term “believeth” in this passage involves trust and obedience. Notice that this verse says nothing about repentance, but we all understand that repentance is included in “believeth” because one cannot be saved without repentance (Luke 13:3). Further, notice that this verse says nothing about confessing Christ. Does that mean that confession is excluded from the plan of salvation? Certainly not. We all understand that “believeth” involves confession because one cannot be saved without confessing Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Notice further, that this verse says nothing about being baptized. Does that mean that baptism is excluded from the plan of salvation? No, it does not. “Believeth” in John 3:16 must involve baptism since salvation is promised to those who believe and are baptized (Mark 16:16). Therefore, one can safely conclude that “believeth” in John 3:16 is a comprehensive term that includes all the things necessary for salvation.

A proper understanding of John 3:16 enhances the luster and beauty of this powerful text. Those who receive it “should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

May I Follow Your Example?

The apostle Paul was an amazing man. He suffered incredible hardship for the cause of Christ (II Corinthians 11:23ff). He cast aside his position in the ranks of Judaism so that he might “be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.” (Philippians 3:9-10). He diligently battled with the sword of the Spirit until his dying day (II Timothy 4:7). He was a marvelous example of a Christian. Like righteous Abel, even though Paul is dead, his exemplary walk of faith lives (Hebrews 11:4).

By Divine inspiration, Paul wrote what could be judged as daring words regarding his example. In I Corinthians 4:16 he said, “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.” He told the Philippian church, “Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” (Philippians 3:17). He repeated this sentiment to the Corinthian church, adding this qualifier, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (I Corinthians 11:1). Some might consider these exhortations to be brash. After all, Paul was just a man. He was not perfect (Romans 7:15ff). Why would God allow this imperfect man to encourage others to follow him? I Corinthians 11:1 answers this question plainly. The contexts of the other verses give their own crystal clear answers. In the context of each, Paul writes of faithfulness to the Lord. He was not seeking personal glory. Instead, he was asking fellow Christians to look and see Christ in him. He was asking them to see what he had suffered for the sake of the Lord and why he had suffered so much. His faith was unshakeable. He wanted his fellow soldiers of the cross to see that and endure with the same determined trust in God that he was demonstrating. As always, Paul’s focus was on bringing glory to God. He was merely trying to encourage his readers to see the power in the life of a Christian who had devoted himself to the Lord.

This brings rise to the question found in this article’s title. I could ask it of you or you could ask it of me. Think about the question for a moment. Do you want others to follow your example? Would doing so bring them closer to God or drive them farther away? Would you rather that people not take a close look at your life?

The fact of the matter is that whether we want it or not, we are constantly being scrutinized. Don’t our children look at our examples? Don’t our friends and co-workers turn an examining eye toward us? Certainly we know that our family watches to see what type of Christians we really are. Can we, by the lives we live, say in the context of a life of faithfulness to the Lord, “Follow me”?

Back in the 1970s there was a television commercial that showed a father and son enjoying a day together. They laughed and played. Everything the father would do, the son would try to mimic. When the day was closing and the two were leaning against a tree and relaxing, the father reached for a pack of cigarettes, pulled one out of the pack and lit it up. He then set the pack back on the ground between him and his son. The commercial closed with the son staring at the pack of cigarettes. The message of the commercial was clear. The son wanted to be like his father in every way, even if it meant engaging in a harmful act like smoking.

This isn’t just about our parental example. It’s a clarion call to each Christian to pause and consider at this very moment whether or not we are setting examples that bring honor to God. Dare we invite people to follow us? Even if we don’t say it audibly, do we show the world by our actions that we are not afraid for anyone to look to us to see the light of Christ?

May I follow your example? I’ll ask you that and you feel free to ask me as well. In so doing, ideally we’ll engage in some serious self-examination and recognize the need for personal accountability for the examples we set before others.

Mike Gifford

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapman Ice Cream Supper
August 17th
After Evening Services
Chapman will have their Ice Cream Supper! Bring your favorite homemade ice cream!

CHAPMAN LADIES BIBLE CLASS:
August 21st
6:30 PM

CHAPMAN 5TH SUNDAY:
August 31st
Fellowship meal (potluck) after morning services. Evening Services at 1:30 p.m conducted by Chapman young men.

PROGRAMS OF WORK

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 Waurine McMillin (Mother of Tim McMillin).

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Mildred Shackelford, Ella Shackelford

•**NURSING HOME:** Cullen Loveless (Ricky’s Father) - Landmark Nursing & Rehab in Booneville.

•**HOME FROM HOSPITAL:** Finley & Fallon Robinson, Grayson Berryman

•**HAVING SURGERY:** Malone Hurt

•**TREATMENTS:** Yater Shinall (Dawn Jackson’s Father)

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Danny Robertson (Amy Stagg’s Father), Courtney Cissom (heart), Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Hudson Grisham (Brother-in-law of Mildred Shackelford), Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.
•**CANCER:** *Wade Hodges*, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Grey Roberson, Merida *Bane* (*Barrett & Starrett Chapman’s Sister*), Beth Kuykendall, William Thrasher, Donna Daniel (Clint Stroupe’s Mother), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Mary Joyce Jeter (Sister of Juanita Michael), Rhonda Shannon, Ann Bennett, John Tiesney, Danny Edmonds, Dean McNutt, John Reno, Ruth Greer

•**SHUT-INS:** *Resthaven:* Oleta Phillips (*Mailing: Resthaven Care Center, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663*), *Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home:* Lorene Willis, W. M. Chapman, Geraldine Benefield, Christine Chapman, Billie Floyd (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*)

*Please notify Karen Yancey (chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net) of any updates to the prayer list.