

**October 9, 2016
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Larry Wood

Song Leader

Keith Newby

Scripture Reading

Jack Harris

Opening Prayer

Randell Koon (A.M.) Gene Yancey (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Bryan Davis (A.M.) Ross Shackelford (P.M.)

Lord's Table

John Hopper (Presiding),

Britt Lindley, Jeff Staggs, David Palmer

Count and Usher

Joel Moore & Chase Chapman

Prepare Communion

Joy Simmons and Shawna Jones

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Larry Wood (10/12/16)

OUR RECORD

October 2, 2016

Sunday Bible Study: 123

Sunday Morning Worship: 144

Sunday Evening Worship: 110

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 112

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,772

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

TAKE HEED LEST YE FALL
Mark Lindley

The opening part of First Corinthians 10 is a review of Israel's wilderness wanderings. God had led His people out of Egyptian bondage and across the Red Sea. God blessed the people in the wilderness, providing them with the necessities of life. Nevertheless, the Israelites were not grateful as they should have been. Rather, the people often worshiped idols, lusted after evil things, tempted God, and committed fornication (I Corinthians 10:1-10). The sad, tragic consequences of their actions are set forth in verse 5: "But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness." They had an opportunity to enter the Promised Land, but they failed to obey the Lord and perished in the wilderness.

Could this happen to Christians today? The apostle Paul answers that question: "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Corinthians 10:11-12). Please take notice of the word "fall."

Now, consider the following: 1) The words in First Corinthians were written to Christians; 2) The passage teaches that God's people of the Old Testament fell short of the land that had been promised to them and they died in the wilderness; 3) These words serve as an "ensample" to us today; 4) These words teach that a Christian, a member of God's church (cf. I Corinthians 1:2), could "fall" and miss the Promised Land of heaven.

This passage shows once and for all that the doctrine of "Once Saved, Always Saved" is false. Any person who studies this passage will have to see this indisputable fact. The illustration Paul gives is just too clear to miss: many Israelites, God's people of the Old Testament, missed the Promised Land; Christians, God's people today, can fall into sin and miss the reward of heaven. That is the illustration and the application Paul makes.

The good news is that one does not "have" to fall away. Paul goes on to affirm that with every temptation, God will provide a way of escape that we may be able to bear the temptation (verse 13). As Christians look to the Lord for strength, He will provide the strength needed to overcome and to inherit the heavenly Land of Promise.

**Voting: Option or Obligation?
by Wayne Jackson**

"To vote, or not to vote? That is the question,"—if one may paraphrase a renowned English writer. This is a serious question for many people as the election season approaches. It is one of those issues, I respectfully suggest, upon which good people may disagree without dissension.

A recent article by a devout Christian took the position that voting is "a privilege, and a responsibility." One can argue reasonably that voting is a privilege under our government; to declare that it is a responsibility is to go beyond what is justified. It is the equivalent of suggesting that it is a sin not to vote. There is no biblical teaching that necessitates such a conclusion.

Some contend that voting is a way to exert one's influence for good, hence to neglect such would be morally irresponsible. What, then, would be the case if one votes, but votes for a different candidate than your preference? Has he or she sinned? Also, must one choose your mode of operation as the exclusive avenue of exerting his influence? These are serious questions.

One of the great Christian leaders of the nineteenth century was David Lipscomb. Lipscomb wrote a book titled Civil Government. This highly respected gentleman took the position that Christians ought not to vote. He contended that since the Bible teaches that God rules in the kingdoms of men, and puts into office those he chooses (Daniel 2:21; 4:17), Christian people ought to leave the matter to him, and remain aloof from the political process. Others argued similarly long before he lived.

Noted historian Edward Gibbon declared that the early Christians refused to take "any active part in the civil administration of the empire" (416). Phillip Schaff, a celebrated church historian, similarly called attention to the early Christians' "disregard for politics and depreciation of all civil and temporal affairs as compared with the spiritual and eternal interests of men" (430). These historical observations are not void of merit.

A weakness in the argument, however, could lie in the fact that the Lord might providentially use citizens to set certain leaders in places of authority to then either reap the benefits or the disciplinary consequences of their choices (1 Samuel 8:5; Hosea 13:11).

Some declare they prefer not to vote because they feel there is no candidate representing their values. This could be a logical position reflecting one's personal conviction. A Christian must guard the sanctity of his own conscience (Romans 14:23).

Others allege: "You must vote—at least for the lesser evil." This is a fallacious argument. No one should be coerced into voting for a candidate with whom he or she is not comfortable. A "lesser evil" could still be an evil in the mind of a devout person!

Some Guiding Principles

If one chooses to vote or to speak out regarding candidates (even if deciding not to vote), there are principles that should guide the Christian's thinking.

1. One's political preference should not be grounded in superficial bases, e.g. race. There are highly qualified people of various races who might serve with distinction. To discriminate because of ethnicity, either for or against, reflects a superficial mentality.
2. The character of the person is important. Does the candidate have any level of spirituality? If he professes faith in God, does he have a significant pattern of life that is consistent with true morality and spirituality? It is one thing to say, "God bless America," yet in the next breath be spewing the vilest profanity. Jesus taught that what proceeds from the mouth is an index to his heart (Matthew 12:34).
3. Moral issues are far more crucial than economic factors. It is much better to be poor and good, than prosperous and wicked. This is an ideal many Americans seem to have forgotten—or choose to ignore.
4. Currently there are terribly important ethical issues that challenge the very foundation of this nation. One of these is the slaughter of the unborn via "legalized" abortion, a heinous practice in vogue for the past third of a century. How could a Christian possibly vote for a person who supports "baby murder," under the guise of "pro-choice"? The "choice" to do what?
5. Another malignancy gnawing at the vitals of this nation is the scandalous attack upon the institution of marriage (the very foundation of civilization), legitimizing, by means of law, illicit sexual unions. This corruption has been promoted incrementally for several decades. First, there was the granting of equal legal privileges to "domestic *hetero*sexual partners," apart from marriage. Then came the "equal-under-the-law" provisions for *homo*sexual couples. Finally, there now is the legalization of sodomy under the facade of "marriage"—both in Massachusetts and California. How in the name of common sense could a Christian ignore these vital issues in deference to less-important considerations?
6. There should be serious consideration concerning how the next President would fill vacancies on the Supreme Court, thus affecting the flow of law for decades to come. It only took one rogue swing-vote in 1973 (Roe v. Wade) to shift the court toward the bloody carnage of legalized abortion. It would be a travesty indeed to contribute to the further disintegration of the nation's moral fiber.

While Christians may disagree on some political options, each person must plumb the depth of his conscience (hopefully one educated by the Scriptures) and act consistent with his own judgment.

Ultimately, peace should prevail among the people of God.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chapman Area-Wide Youth Night October 9, 2016

at 6:00 PM

Speaker: Winston Smith
Meal Following services.

Ladies, please bring:
Finger foods, desserts or 2 liter drinks

Pine Vale Children's Home

Fall Food Drive:

Items requested:

Cooking Oil

Canned Beef Broth

Razors

*Please place items in the kitchen by classrooms.
Will be picked up 17th of October.*

Chapman Fish Fry

Thursday, October 20th at 5 PM

Ladies please bring desserts.

CHAPMAN'S TRUNK-R-TREAT/

HOTDOG ROAST/HAYRIDE:

Saturday, October 29th at 6PM

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:** Gearlene Cissom, Tony & Jane Morrison, Audrey Box

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

•**TEST:** Courtney Cissom

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Angela Bridges (wrist)

•**IN HOSPITAL:**Trevor Shinall(Dawn Jackson's Nephew- 8 yrs. old -LeBonheur/leukemia) Cards may be sent to 507 Cumberland Place, Oxford, MS 38655.

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Sandra Hopper Courtney Cissom, 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*).