

**December 20, 2015
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Kevin Shackelfrod

Song Leader

Keith Newby

Scripture Reading

Mason McAlister

Opening Prayer

Jodie Criswell (A.M.) Logan Yancey (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Barrett Chapman (A.M.) Mickey Chandler (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

Larry Wood (12/23/15)

OUR RECORD

December 13, 2015

Sunday Bible Study: 113

Sunday Morning Worship: 134

Sunday Evening Worship: 104

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 91

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,912

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).

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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

Scarecrows

by Patrick Swayne

One of the more traditional icons of the autumn season is that of the scarecrow. A scarecrow is an object made to look like a person and which is set up in a field of crops in order to scare away birds. Though I have done some gardening in my life, I have never used a scarecrow and so I cannot attest as to whether or not they work from my own experience. However, I can understand the reasoning behind their use – birds eat crops and seeds; humans scare away birds, keeping them from doing so; humans cannot always defend their crops; a scarecrow can maintain the constant image of a human and scare birds away. Scarecrows are not real in one sense of the word, in that they are false imitations of that which is real (humans). While they are not real, the fear that they are designed to inflict is real. At the same time (and try not to get confused here), the fear that they inflict is not really real, because it is merely self inflicted – there is nothing really there that should inflict fear. As we will see, it is not birds alone that are afraid of “scarecrows.”

When the Israelites first approached the promised land, they found it to be a land exactly as the Lord had described to them – as the spies noted, “surely it floweth with milk and honey” (Numbers 13:27). However, it was plain that there would be obstacles in between them and their prized possession; continuing, the spies stated, “the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great” (v. 28). These obstacles though were merely scarecrows. Though they appeared large and looming, the Lord had promised to go with them and the land was theirs the taking. Unfortunately fear turned into murmuring, and murmuring into disobedience. Scarecrows kept them from the Promised Land.

Jesus, speaking in a parable, once spoke of a man who was given one talent who faced a similar dilemma. His fear of failure kept him from doing his master's work. He said, “Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth” (Matthew 25:24, 25a). His master replied by saying that since he knew what manner of man his master was, he ought to have put the talent in the bank. Success would have been that easy – yet the servant's self-inflicted scarecrow kept him from acting. His false fear would send him into outer darkness, where there would be weeping and gnashing of teeth (v. 30).

Simon Peter was once with the disciples on the sea of Galilee, when a tremendous storm arose. Looking out to the sea, Peter beheld Jesus walking across the water toward them (Matthew 14:24-33). Peter looked out at his Master, and begged to be able to join Him out on the water. Christ instructed him to come, and upon doing so, with his eyes on Christ, he was able to walk on water. Yet even Peter succumbed to a false fear – when he saw the waves he began to doubt and to sink. Christ rebuked him, saying, “O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (v. 31). The waves were but a scarecrow – there was no danger when his eyes were fixed on the Master.

Scarecrows come in all shapes and sizes in our lives, but their goal is the same – to keep us from our goal. Have you allowed a scarecrow to keep you from heaven, your promised land? Has a scarecrow kept you from using what your Master has given you to do His will? Have the cares of the world around you been a scarecrow to you, keeping your eyes from Christ? Remember that along with the unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, the fearful will have their part in the lake of fire, which is the second death

"BUT WHERE ARE THE NINE?"

Roger D. Campbell

The Book of Luke records a unique event which took place sometime during the last four months before our Lord was killed. Shortly after raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee, where He came upon ten lepers (Luke 17:11, 12). An amazing thing happened that day, as each of those lepers was healed by the Son of God (17:14, 15). Then, another astonishing thing took place. Of the ten who were cleansed, only one returned to thank Jesus and give glory to God. One would think that under such circumstances there surely would be an expression of thanks from all of them, but, instead a mere 10% returned to thank the Master and hear Him say, "Your faith has made you well" (17:19). As with so many other events in Jesus' life, once you read or hear this historical account, it really sticks with you.

Just now we want to focus our attention on the Master's question: "But where are the nine?" (17:17). Ten men were lepers, not just one. All ten lepers were in a pitiful condition and needed Jesus' help, not just one. All ten lepers were cleansed through Jesus' power and compassion, not just one of them. Yet, nine out of ten failed to express their thanks and give glory to God. We shake our heads in amazement, but is it really that uncommon for humans to fail to be grateful for the blessings that they receive from the hand of God? God's word speaks so plainly about our need to be thankful for what we have. The saints in Colosse were given this simple instruction: ". . . and be thankful ..." (Colossians 3:15). We further read the charge, "Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18). Just what is there for which Christians ought to be thankful?

We certainly ought to thank Jehovah for the natural and physical blessings that He showers upon us. He "makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45). Is not the One Who "gives to all life, breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25) worthy of our praise and thanks? Alas, great multitudes believe that they enjoy physical blessings all because of the work of their own hands or through their own wisdom. With a full stomach, nice home, and unnumbered material possessions, the proud and worldly wonder, "Why do I need God?" Their attitude reminds us of the hogs that we used to feed when we lived on the farm. Those creatures never did look up or stop chewing when we tossed the corn in front of them. No, no thanks from either the hogs or the unappreciative, worldly minded.

We also need to express our thanks to God for His spiritual blessings. The Bible says that God has provided all spiritual blessings in the Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Through the great sacrifice of His Son, He gives us salvation (John 3:16). Through the Christ, He gives us the greatest victory, victory over Satan and the grave (1 Corinthians 15:57). Knowing that our blessings come from the Lord ought to do two things: (1) put us on our knees to give Him thanks and (2) put us on the move to obey His will.

In the human realm, we need to be mindful of all that others have done for us. We truly are debtors to those who have been our helpers in life. We owe our gratitude to those people who have assisted us in both the physical and spiritual aspects of our life. Our parents, other family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, brethren in the Lord, and the list just keeps growing. All of these need to know that we appreciate all that they have done (and maybe continue to do) for us. One message that I often saw in the past continues to stick in my mind. It consists of four words that were put on a sign and then hung on walkways over busy streets in Taiwan. The sign read "Chang shwo syesyee," which means, "Say thank you often." That is a pretty simple message, but unfortunately one that is too often neglected in our time. The idea that the sign expresses is a correct one, not because it is part of the Chinese culture, but because it is in harmony with what the Bible teaches.

Brothers and sisters, where are the nine? Where are those members of the congregation who had their sins cleansed by the blood of Jesus, but have now decided to live their lives without Him? Many have forgotten that they were purged from their sins (2 Peter 1:9). Some have left their first love, returning to their life of fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. Others have become entangled with man-made doctrines and now count themselves as members of denominational groups. Regardless of the reason why people have stopped faithfully following Jesus, we need to be concerned about them and show such concern by going to them and trying to show them what the Bible says about what they need to do in order to be restored to fellowship with Him (1 John 1:7-9).

Good people, "Where are the nine" during Sunday Bible study? Why should we consistently have more Christians in attendance for Sunday morning worship than we have for Bible study? If folks are physically unable to be present for the Bible study, that is understandable. Other circumstances may also prevent one from being at a Bible class, but we fail to understand why some find an extra session of study that lasts no more than forty-five minutes to be such a challenge or even a burden. Where are the nine when the saints gather for Bible study one night of the week? Why is the attendance of "mid-week" Bible classes so pitiful in some cases? Are we not grateful for the Lord's sacrifice for us and the opportunity to study His word with our brethren in the Lord?

We sing songs of thanksgiving to our Creator. We frequently express our thanks to Him in our prayers. That is all as it should be. But, let us make sure that we thank God not only with our lips, but also by the lives that we live for Him.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 20, 2015 HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER After Evening Services

Bring finger foods.
Will be a "special guest" for the kids!

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.

As The Year Ends
By Ronald Bartanen

As the year 2015 rapidly draws to a close, we should remind ourselves once again of this gift of God we call "time." How quickly the year has passed! Time has been described as "a section cut from the great circle of eternity," and "the uncertain boundaries of life on earth." Ben Franklin said, "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of." Someone else once said, "I have no yesterdays. Time took them all away. Tomorrow may not be, but I have today." Time has great value. Although you may not be paid an hourly wage, you cannot limit the value of time.

If you would burn a \$100 bill, you would be destroying more than the paper and ink of which it consists. You would, in essence, be taking bread from your table, medicine from the sick, and books from the scholar. Likewise, the value of time is not in itself, but in what time offers us—the blessings, privileges, and opportunities of life.

Time is NOW. Not yesterday—all of the yesterdays have passed on, and its opportunities are no more. Tomorrow has not yet come—and it may never be. You are left with only today. This must have been in the apostle Paul's mind when he admonished, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16, NKJV). Time well-spent is time spent in the will of God.

PROGRAMS OF WORK
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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bernice Gaillard (Debra Gullick's Aunt).

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Gearlene Cissom, Jimmy Berryman, Phylis Christian, Chap Moore, Josephine Chapman

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Larry Kennedy (Kidney Transplant), Grey Roberson (Oxford), Brad Strickland (Corinth/Heart), Wanda Yancey (Baptist East/Heart/Stents)

•**SPECIAL PRAYER OF THANKS:** Taylor Crawford is home and doing great!

•**HOME RECOVERING :**Sandy Newby

•**HAVING TEST:** Robin Chapman

•**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, Yater Shinall, 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), Grey Roberson, 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).