



CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
250 COUNTY ROAD 550
RIPLEY, MS 38663

January 24, 2021
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements
Danny Shackelford

Sunday Song Leader
Keith Newby

Wednesday Song Leader
Tripp Yancey(01.27.21)

Scripture Reading
Gene Yancey

Opening Prayer
Terry Chapman (AM)
Randel Koon (PM)

Closing Prayer
Brad McAlister (AM)
Tommy Wade (PM)

Count and Usher
Bobby Bridges & Ricky Loveless

Communion
Terry Chapman

Pick Up Communion when entering

OUR RECORD

January 17, 2021

Sunday Bible Study: 66
Sunday Morning Worship: 86
Sunday Evening Worship: 61
Wednesday Night Bible Study:49
Budget: \$3,500
Contribution this week: NA

Chapman Challenger

Receive bulletin by e-mail
notify us:

chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

Also can view on our website:

chapmanchurch.com

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Chapman Church of Christ
Ripley, Mississippi
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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

Paul's Condemnation of "Will-worship" By Wayne Jackson

The church at Colossae was troubled by a heretical movement that seriously compromised the integrity of the Christian gospel. It was a conglomerate mixture of Judaism, asceticism (radical self-abuse), and proto-Gnosticism. For an extended discussion, see Lightfoot (71-111).

One aspect of the heresy, depicted by Paul, was this: "Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will-worship, and humility [falsely motivated], and severity to the body; but are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh" (Colossians 2:23). Of special interest for this study is the term, "will-worship." It is from the compound Greek word ethelothreskeia, which has two roots, ethelo, "to will," and threskeia, which has to do with "religious worship."

First we focus upon the term ethelo, "to will." Some suggest that it conveys the impression of "to seize with the mind"; to have resolve or determination regarding a purpose, with perhaps an impulsive inclination—as opposed to a well-calculated deliberation (cf. Thayer, 285-286). In classical Greek ethelo was used as a prefix in various compounds which suggested the idea of voluntary action, as in a voluntary agent, or running voluntarily into danger (Vincent, 912). The writer interprets the meaning as "self-chosen worship."

Famed scholars of Greek papyri, Moulton and Milligan, suggested that the particular form used in the Colossian text was coined by Paul himself (181). There appears to be a general consensus among scholars as to the significance of the term. We cite the following testimony for those who do not have access to the many tools that address this issue.

The Geneva translation (1557) renders the word as "voluntarie worshipping," with the text using "voluntarie" in the sense of "arbitrary." The same version in the 1560 edition has this marginal note: "Such as men have chosen according to their own fantasy" (Hastings, IV.923). In other words, it is a self-contrived worship. It is "worship originating in the human will as opposed to the Divine, arbitrary religious acts, worthless despite the difficulty of performance" (Orr, V.3085).

J. B. Lightfoot called it a "self-imposed, officious, supererogatory service" (204), and F. F. Bruce declared that such stands in "contrast with the spiritual service which true Christianity enjoins in harmony with the will of God, 'good and acceptable and perfect' (Romans 12:1-2), this 'would-be-religion' is a 'self-made cult'" (128). Even John Calvin called this worship one "which men choose for themselves at their own option, without authority from God" (202).

J. H. Thayer depicted “will-worship” as: “worship which one devises and prescribes for himself, contrary to the contents and nature of the faith which ought to be directed to Christ...” (168). W. E. Vine characterized the ambitious action as “voluntarily adopted worship, whether unbidden or forbidden” (IV.236). Vine was following the work of Cremer (733). In the words of another, it is “a form of worship which a man devises for himself” (Carson, 79), a “self-made religion” (Mounce, 1131). Everett Harrison described it as a worship “not prescribed by God but only by (the will of) man” (72). When the rich Jews were putting the poor Jews into slavery, Nehemiah put a hasty stop to that practice. Why should the Jews work so hard for independence if they sold each other back into slavery? Nehemiah points to his own example. He was not a heavy tax burden to the people as governor, unlike his predecessors. Even 2500 years ago, people appreciated lower taxes.

While Nehemiah was leader, Ezra read the law to the people. Upon hearing the law, the people were prompted to confess their sins. After confession, the people renew the covenant with God. So yes, Nehemiah is remembered for good. In fact, he did so much good it is hard to remember it all. I am sure I have left some of the highlights out in this article. Thankfully, God has a good enough memory to recall all of Nehemiah’s good.

How about you? Do you have the same desire? Do you want to be remembered for good? Follow Nehemiah’s lead. Do good. Do so much good that we have trouble remembering it all. Even though all the details may evade us, we will remember you for good. Thankfully, God will recall all your good. In the work edited by Kittel, Schmidt said will-worship is a “cultus which is freely chosen, which is not commanded or forbidden” (Kittel, III.159). In other words, it may not be commanded [i.e., authorized], and is not explicitly forbidden, so that if used such is innovative. Lenski says it is “a self-chosen worship that is willed by the will of those who want it and not a type of worship that is willed by God” (144). The “devotion was not authorized or commanded by Jesus Christ but was stimulated by the dictates of an unregenerate heart” (Pinnock, IV.195).

The British scholar, Nigel Turner, suggests it is a form of religion “which fails to maintain the true object of worship and in place of Christ selects its own objects.” He calls it an “uncontrolled worship.”

It is a worship of “free choice” rather than that of divine choice (493). The respected work of Balz and Schneider defines ethelothreskia as “self-chosen worship, superfluous worship” (I.381). Another scholarly source describes the error as “self-made religion, do-it-yourself religion, idiosyncratic religion” (Danker, et al., 276; see also Hendriksen, 132). Ellicott asserted the term clearly reflects “an arbitrary, self-imposed service” (181).

Modern Innovators

Contrary to the censure of “will-worship” by an inspired writer, there is the modern sectarian harangue that “God has spelled out no formula for the worship of Himself” (F. Blakely, 14). Or the absurd notion that “in no case did they [the apostles] give directives for corporate worship” (G. Blakely, 37). Accordingly an absurd variety of “changes” have been proposed to accommodate a new “smorgasbord” species of “Christian” worship, e.g., the many innovations of Catholicism, Protestantism and certain apostates within the body of Christ.

For instance one writer asserts that “it would NOT be a sin or unscriptural to have ‘meat and potatoes,’ ‘pie and ice cream,’ or any other healthful, helpful food ‘on the table’ as an aid in worship” (Winder n.d., 123). Others have argued that the communion may be offered on any day of the week; the issue is immaterial (Hook, 17). More recently (December, 2006) there were those brash and infamous sermons presented by Rick Atchley of the Richland Hills church (Richland Hills, TX) in which the announcement was made, and the case asserted, that the Lord’s supper and the use of instrumental music would be incorporated into a Saturday service for those who chose to worship in this fashion. Their philosophy is: Just elect your own format for the communion service and the congregational music! (For a refutation, see Miller).

Similar innovators could be multiplied to the point of boredom. All such departures from biblical truth ignore the Savior’s mandate that worship must be in harmony with the sacred pattern of truth (John 4:24; 17:17).

Traits of Will-Worship

Underlying the apostasy of “will-worship” are several godless dispositions. (1) Will-worship is arrogant and autocratic. It reflects the self-inflated attitude of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who devised a worship format “of his own heart” through which he “made Israel to sin” (1 Kings 14:16). (2) Will-worship is a form of rebellion. It is reminiscent of those days of Israel’s judges when every man did what was right “in his own eyes” (Judges 17:6). (3) Will-worship is enslaving; a sense of self-determination is corrupting, intoxicating, and ultimately destructive.

Albert Barnes, the Presbyterian scholar, commented upon the disposition of those who argue on behalf of will-worship.

“A large part of the corruptions of religion have arisen from this plausible but deceitful argument. God knew best what things [were] most conducive to piety for his people to observe; and we are most safe when we adhere most closely to what he has appointed, and observe no more days and ordinances than he has directed” (271).

Prepare for Judgment, all you who labor under the illusion that you may adjust God’s pattern of worship to suit your carnal passions!

CHAPMAN SERVICES:

*Teen & Child Classes suspended until Feb. 7th.
Adult classes and service times remain the same. Bible Class in Auditorium*

**PLEASE DO NOT COME
IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS
OR AT HIGH RISK.**

**Sermons available on Facebook and
YouTube.**

PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: chapmanchurch.com

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The Bible Broadcast

Sunday Mornings at 8 AM • WKZU radio 104.9 FM

Southern Sentinel Article

Every other Wednesday

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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 Ricky Hopper (Sandra Morrison Hopper’s Husband).

Remember to count your blessings, pray for our lost ones, the sick, the world and the broken-hearted.

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Chris & Chap Moore, Bobbye Chapman, Terry Chapman

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Romia Palmer, Patti Hall, Johnny Cissom, George Doss, Joanie Kate Reese, Louise Pannell, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** Marie Brumley, Keith Hall, Hermie Henry (Bonnie Hurt’s Mother), Kay Thompson, Cohen Hurt, Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith, Betty Faye Ledbury, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Niani Colom-Omotesa

•**SHUT-INS:** Resthaven: **Oleta Phillips, Johnnie Carpenter** (Mailing: Resthaven Nursing Home, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663)

TEXT ALERTS

Text chapmancoc to 95577 to receive Chapman’s Text Alerts.