

February 28, 2021
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements
Larry Wood

Sunday Song Leader
Brad McAlister

Wednesday Song Leader
Larry Wood (03/03/21)

Scripture Reading
Danny Shackelford

Opening Prayer
Tommy Wade (AM)
Jeff Roberson (PM)

Closing Prayer
Britt Lindley (AM)
Logan Yancey (PM)

Count and Usher
Chase Chapman, J C Newby

Communion
Jarvene Shackelford

Pick Up Communion when entering

OUR RECORD

February 21, 2021

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

Chapman Challenger

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CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
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THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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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

EVIDENCE OF SALVATION **Mark Lindley**

There is nothing in this world more important than being saved from sin. Every person possesses an immortal soul that will never cease to exist (James 2:26; Romans 2:7; II Corinthians 5:1). When Christ comes again and judges the world, the souls of the saved will enter heaven; the lost will be banished to hell (Acts 17:30-31; Matthew 25:31-46). In view of these biblical truths, nothing could be more important than having the assurance that one is saved from sin, and, consequently, that one has a heavenly home.

But how can one be assured of salvation? What “evidence” might one possess that could guarantee salvation? Some claim that “feelings” assure them of salvation. It is not uncommon to hear good, sincere folks say, “I know I’m saved because I can feel it!” or some similar statement. However, scripture warns: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). One may “feel” well but be very sick, and one may feel saved but be lost. Feeling saved does not mean one “is” saved! (cf. Matthew 7:21).

Further, one may rely on the words of a preacher for assurance of salvation. One may trust that “the pastor” knows the Bible and teaches the truth. But what if the pastor is misguided? What if, in sincerity, he teaches false doctrine? Scripture warns: “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I John 4:1). Too much is at stake to trust a weak, fallible man with the salvation of one’s soul! Hell is too hot, and heaven, too wonderful to miss!

Then, there are those who maintain their evidence for salvation is a dream, vision, or “better-felt-than-told experience.” Yet, in the days of the early church as recorded in the book of Acts, when sinners asked what to do to be saved, they were not instructed to have an experience, see a vision, or informed that God would speak to them in a dream (cf. Acts 2:36-47; 16:30-34).

Rather, they were given the conditions by which they could respond to the gospel in a deliberate, rational manner.

The only safe, reliable source for the assurance of salvation is the Bible! One cannot be assured of salvation by depending on feelings, what a preacher said, family tradition, or by a mystical experience. Only by learning and obeying the teaching of the New Testament can one be assured of salvation. It teaches that sinners must hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), believe in Christ (John 8:24), repent of sins (Acts 3:19), confess faith in Christ (Romans 10:10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Having done these things, one who continues to live a faithful Christian life can be assured of a heavenly home (Revelation 2:10). Do you have assurance of salvation?

Selfishness **By Joe Slater**

Webster's Dictionary defines "selfish" this way: "Concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself; seeking or concentrating on one's own advantage, pleasure, or well-being without regard for others."

I doubt that many who read this article would want to jump up and tell the world how selfish we are. Yet selfishness has lost much of its social stigma. You might be surprised how many would unabashedly say, "I'm looking out for number one; if somebody else gets hurt in the process, too bad!"

Galatians 6:7 says we reap what we sow. Our society has become more selfish because we have sown the seeds of selfishness. Do you remember when "me" books were all the rage? They were simple story books to give to children, but each one was customized to make the recipient the main character. This is but one example of making self the most important consideration in life.

Many older brethren (including myself) feel alarmed at the lack of concern for sound doctrine characterizing some of the "Millennial" generation. But to their credit, many Millennials understand better than older generations the importance of putting Christianity into action by helping the less fortunate in substantial ways. They see that many congregations have become inwardly-focused, with most resources (monetary and otherwise) directed toward serving "us." Something tells me we'll have better results convincing them about doctrine if we show them we're serious about putting our faith to work serving "the least of these"! Selfishness isn't new! Scripture warns often against over-emphasizing self. Paul, for example, wrote: "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:14). Did he say, "Totally ignore your own interests"? No, he warned us not to think exclusively, or even excessively, of ourselves. If I am cold, I might adjust the thermostat to warm the room. But if someone else feels too warm, I could go put on a sweater instead. I should consider the other person's comfort, not just my own.

Of course, selfishness goes far deeper than thermostats and sweaters. Peter warned of ungodly false teachers who "walk according to the flesh in the list of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed" (2 Peter 2:10). Uncleanness and lust obviously point to sexual immorality which characterizes modern society and has impacted the church negatively. Such selfish behavior ignores the boundaries God set on sexual activity, focusing instead on fleshly gratification without the commitment of marriage.

Even from a strictly worldly standpoint, pre-marital and extra-marital sexual activity bring harmful results, be they physical (disease; unwanted pregnancy) or emotional (guilt, betrayal, anger). These pale, however, in comparison to the spiritual wreckage. Unfortunately, though, selfishness often prevents the person from understanding, much less caring, how their sinful behavior affects their own relationship with God or that of others involved. The momentary pleasures of sin numb them to the eternal consequences.

Selfish people often despise authority (2 Peter 2:10). Do you remember being irked as a child when your parents, teachers, or other adults told you what to do? Wise parents discipline their children, teaching them to respect authority. As adults, we recognize civil authorities' right to tell us to drive on the right side of the road and keep our speed within the posted limit, even when we want to go faster.

Unfortunately, while everyone grows older, not everyone grows up! Some adults kept the self-willed attitude of their youth, and it shows as they resist not only civil authority, but the authority of God Himself! The selfish person childishly exclaims, "I'll do what I want!" But the mature Christian humbly says, "I'll do as I ought."

Just suppose that Jesus had been selfish – where would we be? When He left the glorious splendor of heaven to take on human flesh, was He thinking of His own personal benefit? Hear the Savior's words: "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (John 6:38). Jesus submitted to the authority of His Heavenly Father and acted unselfishly to save us. Pleasing the Father and saving us were more important to Jesus than His own personal comfort. Hebrews 12:2 exhorts us to look "unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame . . ."

A single word tells how to overcome selfishness: LOVE. If we love God, we will seek to please Him through obedience to His commands (John 15:14). If we love each other, we will act in one another's best interests. "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God" (1 John 4:7).

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Amy May (Wanda Yancey's Aunt).

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

•**SURGERY:** Jill Loveless

•**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*)

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