

March 29, 2020
ORDER OF WORSHIP
Announcements

**SERVICES
CANCELLED
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE**



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

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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"WORKS IN PROGRESS"
by Dalton Key

Benjamin Franklin once described a man of his acquaintance as "so learned that he could name a horse in nine languages; so ignorant that he bought a cow to ride on." Here was a man long on knowledge but short on wisdom. He just knew he knew all the answers but in reality failed even to understand the questions.

Too often we mistake knowledge for wisdom. Impressive initials at the end of one's name may well indicate knowledge, but they in no way guarantee wisdom. As the saying goes, "When you educate a fool, you end up with an educated fool." A brain laden with facts may be completely devoid of common sense.

While knowledge gathers and stores information, wisdom puts such to good use. Knowledge comes from learning facts about life; wisdom comes from learning to live. Knowledge comes from study; wisdom, from experience, and thus, and most importantly, from the God of heaven. (James 1:5,17.)

Patience and wisdom walk hand in hand. Knowledge may be hurried along, but not so with wisdom. Wisdom simply will not be rushed. For our own good (and no doubt out of consideration for those with whom we live), God bestows wisdom upon us slowly, a little at a time, not in overfilled bushel baskets, but by bits and pieces, here and there

And among the odder aspects of wisdom is this: just when we think we've "got it" we are soon humbled, forced by facts to admit we've a long way yet to go!

"Wherefore let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall." (1 Corinthians 10:12.)

When it comes to wisdom, we're all works in progress. And the sooner we admit it, the closer to wisdom we'll be.

OUR RECORD

March 22, 2020
Sunday Bible Study: NO SERVICE
Sunday Morning Worship: NO SERVICE
Sunday Evening Worship: NO SERVICE
Wednesday Night Bible Study: NO SERVICE
Budget: \$3,500
Contribution this week: NO SERVICE

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).

The Silent Liberal

Bob Spurlin

Assigning names and attaching labels is a common occurrence in the political realm as well as in the religious world. We have heard terms like conservative, moderate, liberal and other such titles. Bearing labels or other such designations is nothing new and we should not be surprised to receive an artificial label in either a flattering or unflattering way. If a “conservative” is a person who strives to walk the “strait and narrow” and gives strict adherence to a “thus saith the Lord” without deviation or alternation, I am your man. A liberal is one who takes liberty with the Scripture minimizing the importance of the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9-11), and brings about innovations to effect change. However, one may be a “silent liberal” by refusing to speak up when God's word is being violated. Every member of the body of Christ must ask themselves, “Am I a silent liberal?”

If we say nothing when a person diminishes the importance of the church, we are a silent liberal. How many times have we heard those cry about the importance of Jesus and in the same breath desecrate the significance of the divine institution (the church) for which Jesus shed his blood (Matt 16:18; Acts 20:28)? Silence is not always golden as occasions require that we stand up and “contend for the faith” (Jude 3). Modifying an old expression, let us “put our faith where our mouth is” as we discharge our duties as soldiers of the king and meet the adversary on every corner (Eph. 6:11-18).

In answering the question, “What denomination do you belong to?” are we a “silent liberal?”

Frequently, Christians are placed in an awkward position of having to answer the query “what denomination are you a member of,” to which all too often they respond “the church of Christ!” The clear implication is drawn that we are members of the Church of Christ denomination. What other meaning will one draw from such a reply?

This question should give us a rare opportunity of informing those that the church of Christ is not a denomination and these are the reasons why. We are a silent liberal when such an opportunity presents itself to us and we ostracize ourselves from giving a proper reply (1 Pet 3:15). Fear should not hinder us in “standing fast in the faith” (1 Cor. 16:13; 15:1; Gal 5:1).

Elders can be “silent liberals” by refusing to take a stand and make decisions mandated by God. Weak elders often appease a certain group, but weighty decisions must be made in the best interest of the entire church. Matters regarding the role of women in the church, marriage-divorce-remarriage, innovations in the worship, etc., must not be made with respect of persons! Elders are all too often ready with a “wink and a nod” at doctrinal problems and in some cases refuse to act for fear that such decisions would cause them to lose substantial financial contributions. Elders also become “silent liberals” when they abandon the mandated decree of God and therefore the church blends in with the world (Rom 12:2). There's no better time than now that we desperately need those godly, mature, men of wisdom to lead and guard God's flock in these troubled times (Heb. 13:7,17).

Preachers are “silent liberals” when they ignore certain subjects and souls are lost due to their silence. The root meaning of “Gospel preacher” is “one who heralds the Good News.” Preachers must never forget the power is in the “Gospel of Christ” (Rom 1:16) and not in the eloquence of man (1 Cor 1:21-23). Many pulpits have abandoned “thus saith the Lord” (1 Pet 4:11), and as a result, those on the pew are ill-prepared and ignorant to meet the attacks of Satan (1 Pet 5:8). Some preachers have stated in my hearing, “I cannot preach on marriage-divorce-remarriage or I would lose my job.” The “silent liberals” who refuse to speak-out on needed Bible subjects are nothing short of a hirelings (John 10:13) who are more concerned about their social standing and financial package. Imagine visiting your doctor with a serious illness and he ignores your condition; you would give him a serious reprimand and dismissal, (and perhaps even sue for malpractice!). Preachers who refuse to address serious spiritual issues are straddling the fence and are nothing short of “silent liberals.”

While in prison for the gospel's sake (Phil 1:13), Paul wrote, “with all boldness as always Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death” (Phil 1:20). Paul says he was “debtor,” “ready,” and “not ashamed” to preach the Gospel of Christ (Rom 1:14-16). Every elder, preacher, and member should have this disposition of heart as the souls of men are in the balance.

Coronavirus

Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness. We are very concerned about your exposure so please stay home if you are in the high risk category.

Some ways to prevent illnesses spreading are:

Clean your hands often

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

Avoid close contact with people who are sick

Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Stay home if you're sick

Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.

Cover coughs and sneezes

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

Throw used tissues in the trash.

Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Wear a facemask if you are sick

If you are sick: You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

If you are NOT sick: You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.

Lads To Leaders Convention is Cancelled.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

•**MILITARY:** James B Chapman
CJTF-OIRCJ2X
APO AE 09306

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Amy May, Johnny Cissom, Buffie Moore, George Doss, Joanie Kate Reese, Linda Chapman, Louise Pannell, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** Marie Brumley, Jimmy Hopper, Keith Hall, Hermie Henry (Bonnie Hurt's Mother), Kay Thompson, Cohen Hurt, Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith, Lanny Yancey (Treatments), Sandra Jones, Betty Faye Ledbury, Cutah Newby, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Carolyn Medlin, Niani Colom-Omotesa

•**SHUT-INS:** Resthaven: **Oleta Phillips, Johnnie Carpenter** (*Mailing: Resthaven Care Center, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663*), **Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home: Christine Chapman, Earnestine Murphy** (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*).