

**May 29, 2016
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Danny Shackelford

Song Leader

Keith Newby

Scripture Reading

Kevin Shackelford

Opening Prayer

Dalton Beard (A.M.) Young Men(P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Tommy Wade (A.M.) Young Men (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Britt Lindley(Presiding),

Bobby Bridges, Jeff Staggs, Michiel Criswell

Count and Usher

David Smith

Andy Reese

Prepare Communion

Jill & Hannah Loveless

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Chance Criswell (06/01/16)

OUR RECORD

May 22, 2016

Sunday Bible Study: 114

Sunday Morning Worship:132

Sunday Evening Worship: 100

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 103

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,288

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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DEACONS: Terry Chapman, Bryan Davis, Rickey Loveless, Brad McAlister, Joel Moore, Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood
PREACHER: Mark Lindley

God Hardened Pharaoh's Heart— What About Yours? Dan Jenkins

When one first reads those verses in Exodus about God hardening Pharaoh's heart, he can so easily arrive at the conclusion that God forced Pharaoh to do wrong. He can decide that man does not have free will for God totally controls the will of man. Is it possible to reconcile these two concepts?

To answer that let me ask, "How does your heart feel toward the Fijian government's plan to increase import duties on merchandise from the Cook Islands?" Is your heart hardened toward this? Is your heart tender toward such actions? The truth is that your heart is indifferent and neutral toward this.

Now consider Pharaoh's heart toward God before Moses came to confront him. Was his heart "pro-God" or "anti-God"? It was neither. He had lived all of his life with a neutral heart toward God. This obviously changed once he met Moses. He was forced to take a position—either positive or negative toward God's messenger.

Look carefully at those verses in Exodus. On two occasions before Moses ever confronted Pharaoh, God told Moses that He would harden the king's heart (Ex. 4:21; 7:3). How did Pharaoh react when he saw Moses' rod become a snake? He could no longer be neutral toward God, but when the Egyptian magicians duplicated what Moses did, "...the king's heart grew hard" (Ex. 7:13). When Pharaoh saw the plague of the frogs he told Moses to remove the plague, and he would release the Jews, "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the Lord had said" (Ex. 8:15). God did not force Pharaoh. The king hardened his own heart when confronted by God.

The same reaction was seen after the plague of flies, for "...Pharaoh hardened his heart" (Ex. 8:32). It was the same after the death of the cattle (Ex. 9:12). Read carefully what was said after the plague of hail. "He sinned yet more; and he hardened his heart" (Ex. 9:34). Confronted by the miracles he saw, God indeed hardened the king's heart (Ex. 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27), but it was Pharaoh who made the decision!

So, what about God hardening your heart? Before you first confronted the Lord in your life, you were neutral, but that confrontation forced you to make a decision—you had to make a decision. If your heart was hardened, it was done because the Lord's gospel forced you to make a decision, but it was you who made the choice.

You can remain neutral about the Fijian/Cook Islands problem the rest of your life, for it does not involve your life. However, the response to the Lord's teaching will either cause your heart to grow more tender or grow harder. God will force you to make that decision. You cannot remain neutral!

4 Reasons To Continue Having Sunday Night Services

by Steve Higginbotham

According to Thom Rainer, a church researcher, the typical Sunday night worship service conducted at the church building is a thing of the past. According to his research, only 5% of churches have “traditional” Sunday evening services. [That statistic is not representative of typical churches of Christ, but we are moving closer that direction].

I think all would agree that the number of times the church meets together on the Lord’s Day is a decision to be made by a local eldership, and may scripturally differ from congregation to congregation. However, I would like to offer four reasons to continue having Sunday night services.

Broccoli. When I was a child, if my parents had left it up to me, I would have never tasted broccoli, or any other vegetable for that matter. Due to my immaturity, my dietary choices would have been insufficient and unhealthy. Likewise, if one were to poll a congregation, consisting of some who are spiritually immature and babes in Christ, his feedback may be to dispense with a second meeting. Thus it becomes necessary for church leaders to be just that: leaders. They must decide to pursue what is best, not just what is desired. While it is not necessary for a local eldership to decide in favor of a second service, I believe that in most cases, it would demonstrate wisdom.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).

Charades. Several years ago, we had the youth group over to our house and we played, “Bible Charades.” One young lady was to act out “David and Goliath.” I noticed that she had a disconcerted look on her face, not knowing what to do. So I pulled her off in the hallway and reminded her of the basics (e.g. David was a shepherd, Goliath was a Philistine Giant, David killed Goliath etc.). So she said, “Ok, I can do it.” So when she stood in front of the youth group, she jumped and acted as if she was stabbing someone really tall. This teenage girl had no idea that David killed Goliath with a sling-shot.

Our innocuous game of charades revealed a criminal lack of biblical knowledge. The decision to meet twice on Sunday is a decision intended to correct such ignorance.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you...seeing you have forgotten the law of your God...” (Hosea 4:6).

The Ciccarelli Brothers. When I was a young boy, two twins brothers who were a year older than me, decided to make me a mark of their bullying. One day, they informed me that they were going to beat me up after school. Since I didn’t like my odds against two older boys, I surrounded myself with friends as I left school that day, and several days following, until they lost interest in me. Likewise, the Devil is “picking fights” with many of God’s children, and they need the strength and encouragement of their brothers’ and sisters’ presence. The additional time spent with these brothers and sisters may be the strength they need to get through another week.

“I have shown you in every way...that you must support the weak” (Acts 20:35).

And So Much The More. Some Christians in the first century had begun forsaking the assembling of the saints. The writer of the book of Hebrews instructed those Christians to stop forsaking the assembling of the saints, and “so much the more” in view of an impending day. In other words, whatever that impending day was (e.g. persecution, the second coming of Jesus), it was all the more important to assemble together. Likewise the growing hostility of our culture towards Christianity, and the fact that we are closer to the return of Jesus, would suggest that more, not less time is needed to assemble together.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25).

Whether a church meets once, twice, or three times on Sunday, and whether those meetings be structured as preaching, Bible classes, or a mixture of both, just make sure that the decision is not based on convenience or social calendars, but upon what is best for the spiritual growth and maturity of the body of Christ.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29, 2016

Fifth Sunday

Fellowship meal (potluck) after morning service. Evening service at 1:30 PM conducted by Chapman young men.

BABY GIRL

Her arrival grows near,
A precious baby girl is almost here!

You're invited to join us
as we shower parents-to-be

Olivia & Chase Chapman

Sunday, June 5th

2 to 3:30 PM - Fellowship Hall

Penelope Liv

*Registered: Target, Itty Bitty Birdie (New Albany),
Gift of Gab, Silly Sisters (Ripley)*

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

•**SICK SUNDAY:** The Lindleys, Tony Morrison, Margie Hurt, Guy & Juan Stroupe

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Rhett Sanderson (Newborn, Memphis), Pat Morgan (Robin Criswell’s Mother)

•**HOME RECOVERING:** Audrey Box, Deborah Gullick, Amy Chapman

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Guy Stroupe, Willie Jeanes, Hollis Fowler (Frankie Fowler’s Father), 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:** *Niani Colom-Omotesa*, Shelly Taylor, 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*).