

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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PREACHER: Mark Lindley

CAST THE FIRST STONE

Mark Lindley

There was an occasion when the scribes and Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman accused of adultery. The accusers said the woman had been caught in the very act of this immoral behavior. Those who accused the lady said that, according to the Law of Moses, the woman should be stoned to death. Then they asked Jesus what he taught about the punishment for adultery. When the accusers demanded an answer from Jesus, he said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7). Not a single accuser stepped forward to throw the first stone. Why not? It was because not one of them was without sin. All who had accused the woman walked away one by one, defeated and condemned by their own consciences.

This text is sometimes abused in an attempt to justify sin. When sins such as homosexuality, drunkenness, adultery, and lying are condemned, someone will respond, "He that is without sin cast the first stone," as if that statement removes the guilt of sin. But it does not. To use Jesus' statement in an attempt to remove the guilt of sin is an abuse of what the Lord said. Jesus did not overlook the woman's sin; rather, He pointed out that she had been guilty of sin. After all the accusers had walked away, Jesus inquired of the lady, "Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:10-11). Notice that Jesus said go and "sin" no more. He labeled her adultery as "sin." Jesus did not ignore the lady's sin. In fact, Jesus never overlooked or made light of sin, and neither should we.

However, we learn from this passage that we can recognize sin without harshly judging and condemning those who are ensnared in a life of sin. Jesus said to the sin-sick lady, "Neither do I condemn thee." This reveals the compassion and mercy of Jesus. Although he recognized this lady had committed sin, he showed compassion toward her. Therefore, if we want to be like Jesus, rather than feeling that we are spiritually superior to others we should realize that all of us have sinned (Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8). Since we have all sinned, we are in no position to feel we are better than others who have committed those "awful" sins. As people who have fallen short of the glory of God, we should realize our unworthiness to "cast the first stone."

If Christ Had Not Come

Garland Elkins

The cross was not an untimely circumstance in the life of Christ. The choosing of it goes back before the beginning of creation, for He was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). Peter wrote,

Knowing ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ: who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was manifested at the end of times for your sake. (1 Pet. 1:18-20)

By no means, does this mean that the wicked men who crucified Christ were innocent. Peter said to those who crucified Him, "Beginning from the baptism of John, unto the day that he was received up from us, of these must one become a witness with us of his resurrection" (Acts 1:22-24). The cross was not something that men were able to force on Christ. "No one taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself" (John 10:18). Jesus voluntarily gave His life that we might live. He said, "Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again" (John 10:17).

Amazing as it is to the world, much of the value of Christianity lies in the death of its founder, and this is true of no other religion. Death to the founders of all false religions is looked upon as a tragedy. Death to Mohammed and Confucius was tragedy. In spite of the sin on the part of those who crucified Him, death to Christ was victory. What if there had been no cross; suppose Christ had not died? What would be our condition now?

1. **We would still be living in darkness.** As Gentiles, we could expect that we would be worshipping idols. Therefore, the condition would mean that we were lost, without God either in life or death.

Wherefore remember, that once ye, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is call Circumcision, in the flesh, made by hands; that ye were at that time separate from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Eph. 2:11-12)

CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
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June 8, 2014 ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Randell Koon

Song Leader

Brad McAlister

Scripture Reading

Tony Morrison

Opening Prayer

Jarvene Shackelford (A.M.) Bobby Bridges (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Blair Chapman (A.M.) Jeff Staggs (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Terry Chapman (Presiding),

Jordan Staggs, Logan Yancey, Kyle Jumper

Count and Usher

Rickey Loveless & Ross Shackelford

Prepare Communion

Molly Moore & Phyllis Christian

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Brock Lindley (06/11/14)

OUR RECORD

June 1, 2014

Sunday Bible Study: 139

Sunday Morning Worship: 146

Sunday Evening Worship: 111

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 101

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$4,277

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Want to start receiving bulletin by e-mail

instead of postal mail notify us:

chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

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).

If Jesus or if we as Gentiles had become Jewish proselytes, we would be bound by the law of Moses. If Christ had never come, one could not be saved, for apart from the coming of Christ and the shedding of His blood, there would have been no salvation (Heb. 10:1-4, 9:11-22, 13:39; Gal. 2:16).

2. **We would still be in our sins.** It is true that there were certain sacrifices that were to be offered up, but these were only for temporary atonement and depended upon His coming as the Lamb of God and offering Himself for the sins of the world (John 1:29, 36). Guilt would continue to burden our souls with no hope of forgiveness. Psychiatrists seek to relieve the pent-up emotions and mental conflicts by getting the sinner to confess his wrongs, but only Christ can bring inner peace through the forgiveness of sins.

3. **Divine justice would not be satisfied.** Divine justice demanded that man be punished. When a man kills his wife to get her insurance, a mother kills her children or a drunkard kills innocent people, all reasonable people agree that the penalty should be severe. Sin—even one sin—in God’s sight is far more serious than we comprehend and from the standpoint of justice deserves to be punished. The Father and the Son agree that divine justice demanded death for sin. Jesus, therefore, came to earth to pay the penalty that man deserved to pay. This He did that we might be saved (Gal. 1:4; Heb. 2:9-10; Rom. 5:6-8).

4. **There would be no Mediator and reconciliation.** Sin separated man from God (Isa. 59:1-2). Christ came to reconcile man to God (2 Cor. 5:19-21). The fact that Christ gave Himself for us touches us and brings about a desire for forgiveness on our part (2 Cor. 8:9).

5. **There would be no life for us beyond the grave.** Life and immortality are made possible because Christ came. He said, “...I came that they may have life, and may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Paul wrote of Christ, “But hath now been manifested by the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” (2 Tim. 1:10).

“**But Now Is Christ Risen from the Dead**” Paul declares with a shout of triumph that Christ is risen from the dead and is become the “*firstfruits*” of them that slept. Jesus declared, “*I am the resurrection, and the life*” (John 11:25). He announced to Thomas, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me*” (John 14:6). His death brought the possibility of forgiveness from sin. His resurrection brings the certainty of immortality.

Paul, along with the other apostles and hundreds of additional brethren, had seen Christ after His resurrection and had been taught of Him (1 Cor. 15:1-8; Luke 24:13- 34). Why does Paul refer to Christ as the “*firstfruits*”? Had there not been people brought back from the dead before Jesus was raised? Yes, some had been raised by the prophets, and Jesus had raised some, but in every instance the spirit simply came back to inhabit the body again, finally to die again. However, when Jesus arose from the dead, He arose to die no more.

Jesus offers eternal life freely to all who will obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9; Matt. 7:21-23). The choice is ours (Josh. 24:15; 2 Pet. 3:1). Life and death are set before us. If we choose life, we may live the abundant life in this world (John 10:10), that we “*may lay hold on the life which is life indeed*” (1 Tim. 6:19).

Why Does The Church Exist?

By Edd Sterchi

Why does the Lord’s church exist? For what purpose did He build and purchase it? What does Jesus want us as His body to do? A study of the Scriptures will reveal that the church exists to:

* Exalt God. Eph. 3:21 mentions that God is given glory in the church. The church exalts God through proper worship and actions that honor Him. Everything that the church does should be to the glory and praise of the One who created it. The church is to always offer spiritual sacrifices to God always (1 Pet. 2:5).

* Evangelize the world. In Acts 13-14 (as well as many other places in that book), we see Paul and company preaching the word of God to lost souls. This was a church sponsored mission (Acts 13:1-3; 14:27) which was in obedience to the Great Commission of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). The church evangelizes through proper preaching and teaching. The church is the keeper and proclaimer of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).

* Edify the believers. In Ephesians 4:16, we can see that when the body (the church) is joined together, encouragement and edification take place. These are to take place every time the church properly gathers and fellowships. This helps to keep the church energized which affects so many others (2 Cor. 9:2).

* Equip the Saints. Ephesians 4 also gives us another thing that should take place in the church – equipping the saints for service (v.12). It is vital that the church be developing its members for the most effective use of their talents. This comes about through proper education, mentoring, and training programs (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2).

* Ease the burdens of the needy. In 2 Cor. 9:13, Paul commends the church at Corinth for their “liberal sharing with...all men.” The church should be concerned about helping those in need, both within and without. The church does this through proper benevolence programs and projects. This helps to get the name of the church (and her Lord) out in the community (Acts 2:44-47).

Obviously after studying these, it begs the question: “Why does the church here exist?” Are we glorifying God in all of our efforts of the above? Could we do more as a congregation? Are you helping this church in these areas? Let’s resolve to do all that God asks us to do – in His name, by His authority, for His glory! - Edd Sterchi

- Edd Sterchi preaches for the *Broadway Church of Christ in Campbellsville, KY. He may be contacted at eddsterchi@comcast.net*

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAPMAN FAMILY REUNION:

Saturday, June 7th
Chapman Church Of Christ
Fellowship Hall
at 12:00 p.m.

CHAPMAN LADIES BIBLE CLASS:

Thursday, June 19th
at 6:30 p.m.

CHAPMAN SECOND QUARTER BIRTHDAYS (April-June)

The Lads to Leaders would like to invite those who have a birthday in the Second Quarter of 2014 to stay after church services Sunday Night-June 22nd for cake and ice cream for you and your family in the Fellowship Hall. Please make plans to attend.

Mark Your Calendar: CHAPMAN VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: July 13th - 16th

PROGRAMS OF WORK

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

IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Eugenia Parsons.

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Janie Jumper, Joan Berryman

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Larence Parsons (University of MS Medical Center, Jackson, MS), Guy Stroupe (Tupelo)

•**HAVING TEST:** Will Morgan

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Cindy Pruitt, Bettye Melton, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell)

•**HOSPICE:** Nina Thomason (Sanctuary Hospice House, Tupelo - Pat Wade’s Mother).

•**TREATMENTS:** Bobbie Nunnally

• **REHAB:** W.M. Chapman (Room 206 -Tippah County Nursing Home), Lee Bonds (Ola Wade’s Sister), Ed Cissom

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Courtney Cissom (heart), Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Hudson Grisham (Brother-in-law of Mildred Shackelford), Fagin and Johnnie Carpenter, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman. •**CANCER:** *Merida Bane (Barrett & Starrett Chapman’s Sister)*, Beth Kuykendall (cancer), William Thrasher, Donna Daniel (Clint Stroupe’s Mother), Zak Muzzallo (Erik Longoira’s Friend), Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Mary Joyce Jeter (Sister of Juanita Michael), Rhonda Shannon, Ann Bennett, John Tiesney, Danny Edmonds, Dean McNutt, John Reno, Ruth Greer.

•**SHUT-INS:** *Resthaven:* Oleta Phillips (*Mailing: Resthaven Care Center, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663*), *Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home:* Lorene Willis, Geraldine Benefield, Christine Chapman, Billie Floyd (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*)

*Please notify Karen Yancey (chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net) of any updates to the prayer list.