

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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KNOWING THE BIBLE By Mark Lindley

It comes as no surprise that there is a lack of Bible knowledge in our day. Although the Bible is known as a best-seller, few people actually spend time learning the Bible. On several occasions, I have heard folk shamelessly state, “Well, I don’t know much about the Bible, but…” This statement is often made in the context of a conversation about some Biblical subject. After hearing something with which one disagrees or when one wants to make a strong point, the person might say, “Well, I don’t know much about the Bible, but I believe…” and then the person will proceed to tell what he/she believes.

But think with me for a moment. If one “does not know much about the Bible,” should that not be a concern? Most people who profess to be Christians would readily affirm that the Bible is the Word of God. If that is true, should we not take the time to learn what God has said? If God is trying to communicate with us through the Bible, is it not foolish to casually dismiss the importance of Bible study? Also, if one “does not know much about the Bible,” how could one be informed enough to speak about any Biblical topic? Would it not be better to learn what the Bible says before speaking about the Bible?

Granted, no one knows everything about the Bible. Everyone needs to grow in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), and no one should have an arrogant, smug attitude that he knows it all. However, one does not have to know everything about the Bible, in order to know some things about the Bible.

Knowing the Bible is vital to salvation. If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one know he is saved from sin? If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one be sure his life is pleasing to the Lord? If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one be certain that his worship is pleasing to the Lord? If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one know he is going to heaven? The Bible is the only book in the world that provides the answers (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

I am sure that our parents, grand-parents, friends, or a preacher might offer spiritual guidance. However, even good, sincere, religious people can be wrong (cf. Matthew 7:21-23; Acts 26:9). When our souls are at stake, we cannot afford to expect others to provide answers to our questions. Rather, in order to be sure we are saved, we must study the Bible.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN Rodney Nulph

First, Christians have a family. God designed the physical family in the paradise of Eden (cf. Gen. 2:7). Most of us enjoy that blessing from God. In the New Testament, God gave us a second family—relationships with other church members. If our physical family fails us, God has given us the substitute of a family in Christ (cf. Mark 10:29-30). Christians love to sing this truth:

We’re part of a family, that’s been born again,
Part of the family whose love knows no end.
For Jesus hath saved us, and made us His own,
Now we’re part of the family that’s on its way home!

Second, Christians have a function. Our foremost purpose in life is to bring glory to our Father (cf. Matt. 5:6; 1 Pet. 2:12). Therefore, our aim is to do “*in word or deed*” all we do by the authority of Jesus Christ (Col. 3:17; Acts 4:7-10). Our speech (Col. 4:6), attitudes (Phil. 2:1-5), clothing (1 Tim. 2:9-10) and daily work (Col. 3:22) should reflect Jesus (1 Pet. 2:21).

Third, Christians have a future. Those in Christ have a wonderful future, no matter what their situation today. God’s book affirms the Christian’s future is bright (Luke 10:20). Truly, I know not what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds the future. A family, function and future—all free. Jesus is still taking followers.

CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST
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July 6, 2014

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Tommy Wade

Song Leader

Brad McAlister

Scripture Reading

Ricky Cissom

Opening Prayer

Barrett Chapman (A.M.) Bo Chapman (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Larry Wood (A.M.) Michiel Criswell (P.M.)

Lord’s Table

Kevin Shackelford (Presiding),

Keith Newby, Ross Shackelford, Starrett Chapman

Count and Usher

Tom Wade & Jack Harris

Prepare Communion

Kathy Moore & Kelly Brewer

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Chance Criswell (07/09/14)

OUR RECORD

June 29, 2014

Sunday Bible Study: 135

Sunday Morning Worship: 142

Sunday Evening Worship: 118

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 96

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$4,545

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).

WHAT ABOUT LIFTING UP HOLY HANDS?

Dalton Key

Fads come and fads go, and not all of them are confined to the world of fashion. The church has certainly endured her share over the years. Among the more recent: congregants holding in the air—and often waving about—their “*holy hands*” as prayers are offered and selected songs are sung.

Justification for the practice is said to be based in part upon the words of First Timothy 2:8: “*I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*” However, it does seem strange that we have not been encouraged to embrace a literal application of Paul’s words until recently, as a number of denominational groups (charismatic, as a rule) have begun hand-waving as part of their circus-like praise fests.

It is true that the First Timothy passage calls upon those praying to lift up “*holy hands*” in prayer. Consider also Ephesians 3:14, which speaks of bowing the knee in prayer. While assuming a kneeling posture in prayer was once in vogue among many brethren in years past, the practice has largely been forsaken. In most congregations, the fad has long since run its course.

Yes, there is more. The publican, whose prayer allowed him to go “*to his house justified,*” prayed while smiting his breast (Luke 18:13-14). I have yet to hear of any “breast-smiting” congregations.

Moreover, what of Stephen, who accompanied his final prayer both with kneeling down and looking up “*steadfastly unto heaven*” (Acts 7:55-60)? Should we bow the knee and smite the breast as we gaze toward heaven, while lifting up our hands during prayer? Yet, then I suppose we would need to hold one hand in the air while keeping the other one free for breast-smiting.

Actually, one’s posture in prayer is not the important thing, neither is the positioning of one’s hands. A cleansed and sincere heart is what matters. The phrase “*lifting up holy hands*” is but another way of saying what James taught: “*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*” (James 5:16). The “*holy hands,*” by means of a figure of speech known as metonymy, denote “*a righteous man.*” A similar usage may be found in James 4:8: “*Cleanse your hands, you sinners.*” The hands here are meant to represent the whole of one’s life as well.

No doubt, we would be better served during prayer concerning ourselves more with our hearts than with our hands.

God’s Plan for Marriage

Marriage is nearly as old as the human race. It was ordained by the Creator Himself. It was God’s will that a man and a woman become one in marriage. No provision was made for either polygamy or divorce. Marriage was intended by God to be for life, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24). Also study Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39. His plan, as given in the beginning, was: “one man, one wife—for life!”

It was not long, however, until men departed from God’s original plan. Polygamy began to be practiced (Genesis 4:19). When the Law of Moses was given to Israel, the people had become so hard-hearted that God permitted divorce, but only under certain conditions (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). Even then, God was not pleased with divorce. He said: “For I hate putting away, saith Jehovah, the God of Israel” (Malachi 2:14-16).

When Jesus came into the world and gave His law for all mankind, He did not give a new and different law of marriage. Instead He called mankind back to God’s original plan (Matthew 19:3-12). His commandment, “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder” is still God’s will for us today!

The Lord allowed only **one** cause for divorce. This cause is fornication on the part of one’s marriage partner. Fornication on the part of a marriage partner gives the **innocent** partner the right to divorce and remarry. But **no such privilege is given to the guilty partner!** To divorce and remarry for other than the one Scriptural cause is to commit adultery. To marry one who has been divorced who was not the innocent party is to commit adultery. “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery; and he that marrieth her when she is put away committeth adultery” (Matthew 19:9). Also read Matthew 5:31-32. Adulterers will **not** go to Heaven. They will spend eternity in Hell (1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 21:8). Those who are living in adultery must repent, stop committing adultery, and seek the Lord’s forgiveness if they want to be saved.

The home is the basic unit of society. It is the function of the home to provide companionship, the satisfaction of basic human needs and the rearing and training of children. The community, the church, and the nation can only be strong when the home is strong. Many evil forces are seeking to destroy the home today. Among these evil forces are easy divorce laws, fornication, false views of woman’s role in society, but most of all, ignorance of, and a failure to obey God’s law of marriage which is given in the Bible.

God’s people must **never** compromise God’s will on marriage! We have no right to change God’s requirements. In a day when the world increasingly accepts divorce and remarriage for almost any cause, God’s people must stand out as lights shining in darkness (Philippians 2:14-15). It is not our duty to be changed by the world’s standards, but to bring the world to God’s standards. Paul states in Romans 12:1-2. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service. And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, and ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” To this end, we should strive diligently to make our homes conform to God’s righteous ways recorded in His Word. It is very important that we teach our children that **marriage is for life and divorce is sinful** except for the one reason that Jesus gave. Let us never forget or forsake the divine admonition: “Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled: for fornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4). God’s plan for marriage is still “one man, one wife, for life!”

Let us teach our children God’s will on marriage, divorce and remarriage. We must set an example for our children and for the world by following God’s plan for marriage. —Duluth Church of Christ, Duluth, GA

UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS SUNDAY - JULY 6TH

Chapman Singing

Tippah County Hospital

Nursing Home at 2 PM

Visitation Group:

Will not meet this month.

CHAPMAN VBS

July 13th - 16th

PROMISED LAND OR BUST!

Wilderness Road Adventures

This year’s Vacation Bible School is set as a road trip from Grumble to Humble. We will learn from the Israelites that God is willing to lead those who humble themselves to His plans and directions. Grumbling and complaining only make the travels more difficult.

No food or drinks will need to be bought for VBS this year. If you would like to donate, please give to Anna Palmer.

Prize to the boy & girl who brings the most visitors! Start inviting! Flyers are available in foyer.

CHAPMAN LECTURESHIP

July 27th - 30th

Start inviting! Flyers are available in foyer.

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

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Guy Stroupe

•**IN HOSPITAL:** Danny Robertson (Amy Stagg’s Father - Tupleo)

•**SURGERY:** Brenda Shackelford (07/02/14)

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Bettye Melton

•**TREATMENTS:** Bobbie Nunnally

• **REHAB:** W.M. Chapman (Room 206 -Tippah County Nursing Home)

•**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:** Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Gray Roberson, 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.*