

August 9, 2020

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements
Larry Wood

Song Leader
John Hopper

Scripture Reading
Rickey Cissom

Opening Prayer
J C Newby (A.M.)
Michiel Criswell (P.M.)

Closing Prayer
Britt Lindley (A.M.)
Kevin Shackelford (P.M.)

Count and Usher
Randell Koon & Brock Lindley

Communion
Gene Yancey

Pick Up Communion when entering

OUR RECORD

August 2, 2020

Sunday Bible Study: NO SERVICE
Sunday Morning Worship: 99
Sunday Evening Worship: NO SERVICE
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 81
Budget: \$3,500
Contribution this week: NA

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:
chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net

Also can view on our website:
chapmanchurch.com



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

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade
DEACONS: Bryan Davis, John Hopper,
Rickey Loveless, Chris Moore, Kevin Shackelford,
Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood
PREACHER: Mark Lindley

Elders And Their Work
by David Padfield

In other articles we have examined the many qualifications God has given for men who would serve as overseers of the church of God. We have tried to look at every word which describes their qualifications—qualities dealing not only with their spiritual life, but also their family, reputation and character. In this final article on the eldership we want to look at the work of elders. Many of the qualifications for the eldership show part of the work involved as an elder.

Capable Teachers

The phrase "apt to teach" in 1 Timothy 3:2 is "one word in Greek, the adjective *didacticos* (cf. *didactic*). It is found only here and in 2 Tim. 2:24. The meaning is 'skillful in teaching'" (Ralph Earle).

This phrase does not mean eloquent in speech, but it denotes effectiveness in communicating the word of God.

Elders are to "holding fast the faithful word" as they have been taught (Titus 1:9). The idea is that they hold on to and cleave to the word of the Lord. I have known men who thought they were elder material, yet they couldn't even name the books of the Bible!

This cleaving to the Bible is so they "may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict" (Titus 1:9). Exhortation means "to admonish, exhort, to urge one to pursue some course of conduct (always prospective, looking to the future)" (W. E. Vine). This is the same word as found in 1 Thessalonians 4:18, where Christians are told to "comfort one another with these words."

Cleaving to God's word will enable them to "convict those who contradict" (Titus 1:9). The King James Version translates this phrase as "convince the gainsayers." This proficiency in the word of God is required in elders so they will be able to put to silence every sort of false teacher (Titus 1:10-11).

Elders are also to "shepherd the church of God" (Acts 20:28). The King James Version translates this as "feed the church of God." As shepherds of the flock, they are to keep the flock from straying, "they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account" (Heb. 13:7).

Shepherds will also keep the flock from danger. Paul told the Ephesian elders that after his "departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves" (Acts 20:29-30).

It might come as a shock to some, but the primary duty of an elder is not to count the money and adjust the thermostats, but to "watch out for your souls" (Heb. 13:17).

Examples To The Flock

Elders are to serve as "examples to the flock" (1 Pet. 5:3). Christians are to "remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct" (Heb. 13:7). Disciples of Christ are to imitate the behavior of "those who rule over" them. Elders are to be good examples as husbands, fathers, neighbors and teachers. They are to set a good example in the recreation they choose, the company they keep and the words they speak.

Elders And Preachers

Elders and preachers both have responsibilities in the local church (Eph. 4:11-16). Elders must realize that preachers are not "their employees." A preacher is a member of a local congregation—just like every other member. However, there are some functions of a preacher over which no one has control.

In preaching the gospel a preacher is amenable only to God. "The word of God is not chained" (2 Tim. 2:9). The word of God is not to be "chained" by elders. Elders might see to it that a man's financial support is stopped, but men of conviction will preach the truth anyway.

Paul told Titus to "speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority" (Titus 2:15). In speaking, exhorting and rebuking an evangelist might even have to rebuke an elder. Timothy was admonished to "not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:19-20). To confirm this message, Paul said, "Let no one despise you" (Titus 2:15). The word "despise" means "Let no man think around thee" (A. T. Robertson). Preachers must not allow anyone to circumvent the truth with which they were entrusted, either by seeking to "chain" the truth or exercising authority over them to restrain preachers from declaring the whole counsel of God.

Conclusion

Not all men desire to become elders. Not every man can or should become an elder, for like all teachers they "shall receive a stricter judgment" (James 3:1).

Those who have prepared for the eldership and then serve well have a promise from God that "when the Chief Shepherd appears," they "will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away" (1 Pet. 5:4). We all need to encourage young men to work on the qualities of life that will enable them to serve as elders. "Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine" (1 Tim. 5:17).

Letter to Chapman

Brad McAlister

I love the Church at Chapman. You have such a strong love for one another and desire to want to see one another succeed with spiritual and physical blessings. The love runs very deep in this congregation. We have mourned together and rejoiced together over the past 25 years that I have been part of this family. You have taken me in and made me feel as though you had known me my entire life. You have shown me love, support and offered countless words of encouragement that has allowed me to grow in the Lord.

The office of an Elder is the most important office that a man can possess in this world. Two years ago, Brother Barrett sat down with me and encouraged me to consider becoming an elder. Ever since, I have given deep thought and offered much prayer prior to accepting this grave responsibility.

It is the most esteemed Honor to serve you but more importantly to serve the Lord in this capacity. I do not take it lightly. I will continue to need your steadfast love, support and encouragement.

This Pandemic presents us with a host of challenges but we cannot allow it to overshadow the excitement that is happening for us here at Chapman:

When I see the huge influx of toddlers to go along with our wonderful existing youth, parents, grandparents and extended family there is much to be excited about. Every single member here at Chapman has much to offer to those within and those without and we will continue together to build and strengthen the work that has long been serving the Lord here.

Thank you for all you for your part in helping me to achieve this high honor. Each word of encouragement, shake of the hand and pat on the back, has been instrumental in every step of my life. Please continue to pray for me as I grow and learn in this new role.

CHAPMAN SERVICES

Sunday morning will remain at 10:30
with Worship Service only

No Wednesday Night Services
at 7 PM – 08/05/20

No Children Bible Classes

All Services will be in auditorium and outside.

**PLEASE DO NOT COME
IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS
OR AT HIGH RISK.**

**Sermons available
on Facebook and YouTube.**

Zoom Bible Study: Check Facebook for updates and Zoom Meeting Information.

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

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

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Brenda & Danny
Shackelford

•**HOSPITAL:** Romia Rickles, Danny
Meeks (ICU/Corinth)

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:**
Keith Newby (Oxford), Billy McBryde
(Rita Smith's Father)

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Johnny Cissom,
Buffie Moore, George Doss, Joanie Kate
Reese, 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, Betty Faye Ledbury,
Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita
Trotter, 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,** (*Mailing: Tippah County
Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North,
Ripley, MS 38663*).