

September 28, 2014
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Chris Moore

Song Leader

Johnny Cissom

Scripture Reading

Mason McAlister

Opening Prayer

Gene Yancey (A.M.) Jodie Criswell (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

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

Lord's Table

Tom Wade (Presiding),

Jeff Brewer, Chase Chapman, Tommy Wade

Count and Usher

Eric Melton and Bobby Bridges

Prepare Communion

Bobbie Chapman & Pat Shackelford

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Jack Harris (10/01/14)

OUR RECORD

September 21, 2014

Sunday Bible Study: 114

Sunday Morning Worship: 129

Sunday Evening Worship: 104

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 117

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,254

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Receive bulletin by e-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).

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

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Chapman Church of Christ
Ripley, Mississippi
(662) 837-7012
chapmanchurch.com

ELDERS: Barrett Chapman, Jodie Criswell,
Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade
DEACONS: Terry Chapman, Bryan Davis, Rickey
Loveless, Brad McAlister,
Joel Moore, Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood
PREACHER: Mark Lindley

VOTING AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

By: Mark Lindley

Voting for Church membership is a common practice in denominationalism. I remember that when I first heard about the practice many years ago, I knew it did not "sound" Scriptural. The Bible clearly teaches that God loves all, wants all to be saved, and desires that all be members of the New Testament church. These basic Bible facts seem to clash with the concept of voting for Church membership. Since God wants every person to be a member of the New Testament church, why would there be any need to vote? Do people who vote have more power or authority than God? The answers to these questions seem obvious.

What is involved in the voting process? There may be some variation among Churches, but the following are the basics steps involved: First, a candidate presents himself/herself to be considered for Church membership. Second, the person affirms that he/she has been saved, and tells about the "experience" of being saved. Third, the Church then votes on that person to determine if the person is a suitable candidate for Church membership. Fourth, depending on the vote, one is either accepted or rejected.

The practice of voting for Church membership is unscriptural for a number of reasons. First, it is not found anywhere in the Scriptures. In order for a practice to be Scriptural, the practice has to be found in the Scriptures. If voting for Church membership is not found in the Scriptures, and it is not, then it must be an "addition" that originated with men. Second, the whole concept of joining a denomination is foreign to the pages of Bible. Not one person mentioned in the Bible ever joined a protestant denomination. This is an indisputable fact since there were no protestant denominations in the first century. In the New Testament, people were members of "the Lord's church" (see Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 1:2). Third, after the church of Christ was established in Acts chapter 2, no one was ever saved at "point A," and then joined a Church at "point B." In the Bible, the moment one is saved from sin, that person is "added," by God, to the church. Scripture says that "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47). If the Lord adds the saved to "the" church, and He does, then why would anyone need to join "another" church? First century Christians were members of "one" church, not two. Should it not be the same in the 21st century? If not, why not?

Dear reader, if you have been led to believe that the only option you have is to "join" a church (and to be voted on), please understand that you have another option, a Biblical one: be saved and God will add you to His church (Acts 2:37-47). God has already cast His vote for you!

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Lessons for Parents in Ecclesiastes 12:1 Raymond Elliott

Raymond Elliott "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'" This passage of Scripture is ordinarily used in encouraging young people to remember God and to give their lives to the Lord; however, I believe there are several lessons contained in this text that would be applicable for parents

First of all, parents should remember that children are not ours to rear as we choose. The Psalmist declared, "Behold children are a heritage from the Lord..." (Psalm 127:3). We should have the same attitude of Hannah when she made this vow to God, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head" (1 Samuel 1:11). Our attitude should be same, that is, when God gives us children, we should give them back to Him by rearing them in the "training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Second, youth is the time to teach our children of God and Jesus Christ. Their hearts are receptive and not filled with prejudice. Children trust their parents, and they can be impressed with the teaching they receive from the Word of God. Jochebed, the mother of Moses, must have greatly influenced him while he was in her care. It was in his adulthood that this man of God made an important decision as is recorded in Hebrews 11:24-25, "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin." Then there is the case of Timothy who was greatly influenced in his youth to give his life to Christ. The apostle wrote concerning who taught Timothy the Word of God as found in the Book of 2 Timothy, "When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded in you also" (2 Timothy 1:5). "And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

Third, parents should realize that soon the difficult (evil) days will come. Parents will not always be around to help their children in making the decisions as to what is right or wrong. It is when the child is at home that parents must prepare them to be able to face the "difficult days" when they are away from home. There is the example of a young soldier in the Far East when the time came for him and his buddies to have a period of 'rest and relaxation.' The decision was made by the majority of the soldiers to go to a town and commit sins of immorality and drunkenness. The young Christian soldier refused to follow the crowd because he remembered that his parents were praying for him and his safety. He also remembered the lessons from the Word of God relative to keeping his body pure (1 Timothy 4:12).

Fourth, parents know their children are growing older and will soon leave home in a matter of a few years. It is during the age of innocence that children should be influenced to give their lives to the Lord. Youth is not the only time to "remember God" but it is the best time.

The case is, the older a child becomes, the more difficult it is to make the decision to obey the Gospel. The reason being is that Satan can harden the heart through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:12-13).

In conclusion, the inspired writer stated in this text that there is a point of no return. There are many influences such as higher education that can destroy the young person's belief in God as being the Creator of the universe and can cause one to become an agnostic or even an atheist. The practice of sin can harden the heart of an individual that he will have no desire to repent and return to God. Because of the influence of evil companions, a son or a daughter can be led astray (1 Corinthians 15:33). Many a young adult no longer has any pleasure in the former years when he was at home and associating with friends who were Christians and all were attending the various assemblies of the church. It is sad to say that not all stories about 'prodigal' children end well as did the one in Luke 15.

• PLEASE JOIN US FOR A •

Housewarming Party

HONORING

Chris & Molly
MOORE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
2 UNTIL 3:30 PM

New Home
3951 CR 617
Ripley, MS

HOSTED BY: KELLY BREWER, ANNA
PALMER, AND ALISON WADE

THE HAPPY COUPLE LOVES NEUTRAL COLORS,
OUTDOOR DÉCOR, & MISSISSIPPI STATE BULLDOGS

UPCOMING EVENTS

You are Invited

90th Birthday Celebration
Willard Mauney Shackelford

September 27 • Saturday 2 to 4 PM

Mt Zion Fellowship Hall, Falkner, MS
No gifts please - A card will make her smile.

Pine Vale Children's Home

Fall Food Drive:

Items requested:

Brown Sugar

Drink Boxes

Toilet Cleaner

SOS Pads

Please place items in the kitchen by classrooms.

Will be picked up the week of October 20th.

2014 CAMPAIGN FOR CHRIST

September 28th-30th

"Sounding Out"

Speaker: Keith Parker

At: Booneville Church of Christ

Singing: 6:30 PM - Service: 7:00 PM

In order for us to travel to the Campaign the elders
have moved our **afternoon services to 5:00 p.m.**
for that Sunday only.

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:** Jeff Brewer, Tony Morrison, Janie Chapman, Kasandra & Erik Longoria, Audrey Box

•**REHAB:** Cullen Loveless (Ricky's Father)
- Landmark Nursing & Rehab in Booneville.

•**SURGERY:** Lyndon Beard

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Terry Jumper (myasthenia gravis), Danny Robertson (Amy Stagg's Father), 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:** Yater Shinall (Dawn Jackson's Father), *Margaret Koon (Randle Koon's Sister), Brenda Wallace, Wade Hodges, Jennifer Pannell (Niece of Sharon Pannell), Grey Roberson, Merida Bane (Barrett & Starrett Chapman's Sister), Beth Kuykendall, William Thrasher, Donna Daniel (Clint Stroupe's Mother), 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.*

**DUE TO PRINTER PROBLEMS
WE WERE UNABLE TO MAIL
CHAPMAN CHALLENGER FOR TWO WEEKS.**