

December 6, 2020
ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements
Randell Koon

Sunday Song Leader
Logan Yancey

Wednesday Song Leader
Brock Lindley (12/09/20)

Scripture Reading
Kevin Shackelford

Opening Prayer
Ricky Cissom (AM)
Jame Pilgrim (PM)

Closing Prayer
Britt Lindley (AM)
Eli Carter (PM)

Count and Usher
J C Newby & Keith Newby

Communion
Brad McAlister

Pick Up Communion when entering

OUR RECORD

November 29, 2020

Sunday Bible Study: NA
Sunday Morning Worship: 109
Sunday Evening Worship: 82
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 74
Budget: \$3,500
Contribution this week: NA

Chapman Challenger

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

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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

ELDERS: Terry Chapman, Brad McAlister,
Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade

DEACONS: Bryan Davis, John Hopper,
Rickey Loveless, Chris Moore, Kevin Shackelford,
Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood

PREACHER: Mark Lindley

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR THE CHURCH?

Mark Lindley

People often wonder what the church can do for them. It seems that everyone wants to be part of a large congregation that has immaculate facilities, lots of activities for the young and old, children of all ages, and a large contribution. When someone is looking for a congregation to attend, these may be some of the criteria used to find the "right church." Most do not look for a congregation where they are needed "to" serve. Rather, folks frequently look for a congregation where they can "be" served. This self-serving attitude seems to be at odds with the spirit of Christianity and the example of Christ, Himself.

Consider these words describing the ministry of Christ: "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28). This passage shows that Jesus, the founder of Christianity, did not come to be served; He came to serve.

Christianity is built upon this principle of service and sacrifice. Paul wrote, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:5-8). Notice that Jesus took upon himself the "form of a servant." As a servant, Jesus gave Himself for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). There could be no greater example of sacrifice than the one made by Christ. Yet, those seeking to be followers of Christ today, often do not seem to have this same selfless, sacrificial spirit. The question at the forefront seems to be, "What can the church do for me?" rather than asking, "What can I do for the church?"

I cannot imagine Jesus, Paul, or Peter saying, "I am placing membership with congregation B because they nicer facilities and greater financial resources than congregation A." I cannot envision Christ or His apostles saying, "I am hoping to find a church that meets my needs." I do not believe the Lord or any of His apostles would say, "I am choosing to attend the services of this congregation because they have more social gatherings." I am persuaded that Jesus, Paul, and Peter were too busy serving to think about being served. I think they were too busy spreading the gospel and trying to save others to think about themselves. They were servants...we should be as well.

**To Give Or Not To Give?
Steve Higginbotham**

It's that time of year again. You know...cold weather, Christmas decorations, long shopping lines, and "soldiers" in the Salvation Army standing at the entrance of nearly every major shopping area. These dedicated soldiers brave the cold while ringing a little bell, as they solicit donations to help the needy.

These red kettles are responsible for collecting approximately 150 million dollars each year to provide food, clothing, and shelter to the less fortunate. Such good deeds appeal to our sense of benevolence at a time when we are feeling particularly benevolent. Surely there would be no harm in making donations to these tireless workers who are willing to endure the cold winds of December, or is there? Through the years, people have asked me how they should respond to these door-greeters. The following is my advice.

The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 by William Booth, a Methodist preacher. Booth believed that God had called him to minister to the outcast. His philosophy was "Soup, Soap, and Salvation." Booth believed that a person who was hungry or in need of a bath would not be interested in the gospel of Christ until those needs were met.

In the beginning, Booth intended for the people he reached with the gospel to return to their home churches, but he soon found these "converts" were unwelcome in their home churches, or unwilling to return to them. Therefore, in 1878, Booth and his wife Catherine, organized the "Salvation Army" as a new church denomination. Booth designated himself as General, his best leaders as lieutenants, captains, and majors, and faithful converts became soldiers.

Thus, the Salvation Army differs from other benevolent organizations such as "The Red Cross," or "The American Heart Association," etc. in that it is a church, a religious denomination. As a religious denomination, it teaches a perverted plan of salvation accompanied by many other doctrinal errors. Like all religious denominations, the Salvation Army does some good. But does the fact that the Salvation Army does some good, mean that we should support them? Do the ends justify the means?

Should a Christian, a member of the church that Jesus purchased with His own blood, support a man-made religious body, that rivals the Lord's church? Should we support, by our donations, a false religious organization that teaches a false plan of salvation, which if followed, will result in people unknowingly remaining in their sins when they think they're forgiven?

Don't lose sight of this important point. An organization that feeds the stomach but starves the spirit is not truly helpful. I certainly don't question their sincerity or their willingness to help the poor, but they have a zeal for God that is not according to knowledge (Romans 10:2).

Instead of doing our benevolence through a false, man-made church, why don't we maintain a benevolent spirit, giving as we are prospered, and let Christ be glorified through His church (Ephesians 3:21)?

As the little bell is rung your direction during this holiday season, join me in politely saying, "I do my benevolent work through my local church."

**CHAPMAN SERVICES
BACK TO REGULAR TIMES :**

Sunday Services

Bible Study10:00 am
Morning Worship10:45 am

Sunday Evening Service

Evening Worship2:00 pm

Weekdays

Wednesday Bible Study7:00 pm

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

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

IN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: Our hearts go out in deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Charlene Reese (Andy's Grandmother).

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

•**HOSPITAL:** Bobby McBride (TCH)

•**RECOVERY:** Debbie Chapman, Patti Hall, Jeff Carpenter, Sue Shelton

•**SURGERY:** Jodie Criswell

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Romia Palmer, Patti Hall, Johnny Cissom, George Doss, Joanie Kate Reese, Louise Pannell, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** Marie Brumley, 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 Nursing Home, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663*)

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