

**December 8 2019
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Announcements

Jarvene Shackelford

Song Leader

Chris Moore

Scripture Reading

Ross Shackelford

Opening Prayer

John Hopper (A.M.)

Brad McAlister (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Jodie Criswell (A.M.)

Michiel Criswell (P.M.)

Lord's Table

Bryan Davis(Presiding),

Ricky Loveless, Mason McAlister, Palmer Jones

Count and Usher

Bobby Bridges & Terry Chapman

Prepare Communion

Jill and Hannah Loveless

Wednesday Night Song Leader

Jodie Criswell (12/11/19)

OUR RECORD

December 1, 2019

Sunday Bible Study: 113

Sunday Morning Worship: 139

Sunday Evening Worship: 107

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 126

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: 3,865

BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

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Also can view on our website:

chapmanchurch.com

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

THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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

Bible Reasons for Christian Living

Winfred Clark, deceased

We live in a day and age when people are looking for reasons. That is good. Such an approach will cause one to act in a fashion that is intelligent. There are also cases where one may be told to do, or not do, a certain thing. That person may respond by saying "Why?" That is, they want to know the reason.

If you take the time to look at your Bible, you will see some reasons outlined as to the "why" people ought to live right.

1. **TO SAVE THE LOST.** This is clearly spelled out in the Bible.

Peter speaks to the wife who has the husband that is not a Christian. She is told to, "...be in subjection to your own husband; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear" (I Pet. 3:1-2). Notice that the wife is told what to do, and she is also told why she is to conduct herself in that way. In short, her life is to be lived in such a way that she may be a Christian influence and save the husband.

2. **TO SILENCE THE OPPOSITION.** This is surely seen in the language of Paul to Titus. "Sound speech that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you" (Titus 2:8). The man that is a Christian is to so speak and so act that nobody can have any reason to speak a word against him. He may not agree with what he believes but he cannot deny the kind of life he lives. This was true in the case of Daniel.

3. **TO SUPPORT THE TRUTH.** Listen to the language of Paul, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ" (Phil. 1:27). This passage calls for a life that will support the gospel. It will be a life that attracts people to the gospel rather than having them repulsed by such. One would not listen to someone like the priest or Levite that passed by on the other side of the road. He would however pay some attention to what one like the Samaritan had to say. Surely the gospel would make one more like that Samaritan than the priest and Levite.

Yes, there are reasons for living the life a Christian is to live.

Nehushtan T. Pierce Brown

In 2 Kings 18, there is a powerful truth that needs to be called to our attention. There is a story of a brazen serpent on a pole. It had been ordained of God and could have served for good as a reminder of the love of God for them and as a warning not to turn aside after their own ways, but instead, it had been perverted into an idol.

The background of this incident is in Numbers 21 when the people were grumbling, and God sent fiery serpents to punish them. Then, for their deliverance, He had commanded that there be lifted up a brazen serpent on a pole so whosoever looked upon it would be saved. So important was it that it was mentioned again in John 3:14-15 as a type of Christ.

However, Hezekiah was not afraid to simply call it by its right name—Nehushtan, “a thing of brass”—and remove it from its idolatrous position. Whole articles could be written or sermons preached about the effect of calling things by certain names. I remember when a person could say, “This is my affair” without meaning he had an improper relationship with some woman. A person could be thought of as gay or even slightly queer without engaging in homosexual activity. Calling it “an alternate life-style” does not keep it from being sinful. Some time ago, a woman told me her daughter was “in a family way.” Since it had been many years since I had heard the expression, it took me a few seconds to realize she meant that she was about to become a grandmother. (Did you notice I had to make an effort to say, “Her daughter was pregnant”? For where I grew up, nice people did not use that expression but thought that “in a family way” sounded better.) Many of our changes in the use of language may have no adverse effect.

There may be some value in speaking of death as “a passing,” but if we are afraid to call sin “sin” and must soften it to “mistake” or “shortcoming,” we are in danger. Communists, effective politicians and some preachers are very adept at using language that may change meanings, even in the middle of a sentence.

Yet, my primary aim now is to point out some things that today may parallel the sad situation of Hezekiah’s day. There are many things that God ordained that may become a Nehushtan—a thing of brass—useless at the best and idolatrous at the worst because of their misuse. You may have known of persons who were going on a trip on Sunday. They could miss almost anything, especially the sermon or contribution, but they needed to “commune.” So, they either came in late for the Sunday morning service in time to take the Lord’s Supper, or they tried to find a place on Sunday night that they could run in and partake of it before taking off on their pleasure trip. I am in no sense denying the propriety of a congregation giving an opportunity to partake of the Lord’s Supper on Sunday evening.

However, I am saying that it is possible to make the Lord’s Supper a “sacramental act” by which it is assumed that divine grace is somehow conferred. The principle is the same as setting up the serpent of brass. God ordained it, but it had no merit of itself and became idolatrous. Baptism is a divinely prescribed act, at which point, when properly done, God grants remission of sins and every spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ. One might think it is almost impossible to overestimate the importance of baptism, for it is the point at which one passes from death unto life. Yet, surely no preacher of the Gospel is unaware that many connected with the Lord’s church (more or less loosely, I admit) have made a Nehushtan of baptism. Many times, I have knocked on doors and in the conversation that ensued have been told, “I am a strong Church of Christ. I’ve been baptized.” On further inquiry, I found that they had not been to any service since “Reverend Smith” (or whoever the “pastor” was who preceded me by about 10 years) had moved. They did not even know that their preacher was not a “Reverend Pastor,” although they considered themselves a “strong Church of Christ.”

When baptism is thought to be a meritorious act (a sacrament) by which Divine grace is automatically conferred, as it apparently is by a large number connected with the church who sometimes appear on Sunday morning, Easter or Christmas, it is but “a thing of brass” and amounts to a false god that some seem to worship. Even the Bible, which we should recognize as a blessed product of God’s grace and mercy, the most important of all books and actually without peer, can be carried by a bride in a wedding, placed on a mantle piece, bound in finest Morocco and revered as a great book but neither read nor practiced. In the 8th Air Force in World War II, some of the gunners in my squadron would carry a Bible or a New Testament (along with a rabbit’s foot, which, to them, was of about equal value) when they would go on a mission. Some of them even returned, which no doubt proved to them that it worked! This may be called Bibliolatry. Some modernists speak of “Bibliolatry” as “the custom of having to find a proof-text in the Bible for any practice in which you engage,” but that is simply respect for the Word. The other is reverence for the book, as a symbol or talisman—a sort of holy charm.

Bacon mentioned at least four classes of idols that beset men’s minds: Idols of the Tribe, Idols of the Cave, Idols of the Market Place and Idols of the Theater. There may be more and simpler ways to classify them, but we need have no doubt that we have made idols of popularity, tradition and many other things, including formal education. I heard just last week of a preacher who told another that unless he had at least a Master’s degree, he would be unable to preach regularly in the city in which he was preaching.

If Gus Nichols, Foy Wallace or the apostle Peter were there, they might make an exception, but I have an idea that if the elders of a congregation actually felt that way about anyone, they would refuse to use those men and even Paul (or maybe especially Paul) on other grounds.

So, mankind has always tended to have brass serpents or “golden calves,” which they invent as they choose. When a person takes a tree and “half of it he burns in the fire—and warms himself, and the rest of it he makes into a god—and prays to it” (Isaiah 44:15-17), it is not too hard for many to see that this is silly. However, perhaps the most insidious practices are to take the things God ordained for our good or salvation and pervert them into idols. It is harder to see that these, too, although ordained of God, have been perverted and are but things of brass. This may apply to certain evangelistic methods or various other things. This is the root of some of the cultism in and out of the church, as well as of many other evils. Let us take care never to allow anything, even the things God ordained, to be exalted or revered just for their own sakes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHAPMAN HOLIDAY BASKETS December 8th– after Evening Service

CHAPMAN WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Guest Speakers

”Onward and Upward with Christ”

12/04/19 – Wayne Cox

12/11/19 – Josh McCrary

12/18/19 – Barry Kennedy

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Rickey Loveless, Ola Wade, Doris Williford

•**RECOVERY:** Loretta Criswell, Debbie Chapman, Anna Palmer

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** George Doss, Pat Waide, Joanie Kate Reese, Linda Chapman, Nina Morrison, Jo Chapman, Louise Pannell, Tony Morrison, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** Keith Hall, Hermie Henry (Bonnie Hurt’s Mother), Kay Thompson, Cohen Hurt, Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith, Lanny Yancey (Treatments), Danny Yancey, Sandra Jones, Dianne Graves, Betty Faye Ledbury, Cutah Newby, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Carolyn Medlin, 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, Earnestine Murphy** (*Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663*).