

December 10, 2023

**Announcements**  
Kevin Shackelford

**Song Leader**  
Chris Moore

**Scripture Reading**  
Luke Hobson

**Opening Prayer**  
Brad McAlister (A.M.)  
Danny Shackelford (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**  
Keith Newby (A.M.)  
John Hopper (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**  
Bryan Davis

**Count and Usher**  
Randell Koon & J C Newby

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**  
Keith Newby (12/13/23)

### OUR RECORD

**December 3, 2023**

Sunday Bible Study: 87  
Sunday Morning Worship: 101  
Sunday Evening Worship: 72  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 76

### BULLETIN BY E-MAIL

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:  
office.chapmanchurch@gmail.com

**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

**Published Weekly by**  
**Chapman Church of Christ**  
**Ripley, Mississippi**  
**(662) 502-2806**  
**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

### DID ALEXANDER CAMPBELL START THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?

**By: Mark Lindley**

It is not uncommon for someone to affirm that Alexander Campbell started the church of Christ. Recently, a preacher on television taught this and, as a member of the church of Christ, I feel obligated to address this matter.

Alexander Campbell was a prominent man who lived and worked during the days of the Restoration Movement. This was a movement that began in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Campbell, along with Barton Stone and others began working to bring unity to a religious world that was divided. The plea of the movement was to “speak where the Bible speaks, and to be silent where the Bible is silent.”

Those of the movement believed that religious unity would be possible only by rejecting man-made creeds and returning to the Bible. Because Campbell was a key figure of the movement some believe that he started a church called “the church of Christ.”

The truth is that Campbell never intended to start a Church. Rather, it was his intention to return to the pattern of the original New Testament church. He understood that denominationalism is unscriptural and causes division in the religious world. Campbell promoted unity by returning to the Bible as the only proper standard of religious authority. Members of the church of Christ who are aware of this history appreciate the efforts of men such as Campbell. However, neither Campbell nor any other man started the church of Christ. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the founder of His church. He said, “Upon this rock, I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). Jesus loved the church and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25). Jesus shed His blood to purchase the church (Acts 20:28). Jesus is the Head of His church (Colossians 1:18). It is clear from all these passages that, in the first century, the Lord Jesus Christ started His church (Acts 2:1-47). His church was not and is not a denomination.

In view of these facts, the question we should ask is this: Is it possible to be a member of Jesus' church, without joining a denomination? Some who desire membership in Jesus' church are not aware that there is an alternative to denominationalism. The alternative is membership in the church of the New Testament. None of the Protestant denominations of our day are in the Bible, but the church started by Jesus is in the Bible. Early Christians were part of that one body (Ephesians 4:4), and it is still possible to be part of that body without denominationalism.

The term “church of Christ” is not a proper name; rather, it is a designation which shows ownership. It is the church “of” Christ (belonging to Christ). This is what we mean by “church of Christ.” It is not a denomination. Paul wrote: “The churches of Christ salute you” (Romans 16:16). This was written long before the birth of Alexander Campbell!

## Are Slang Words (Euphemisms) Wrong? By Kevin Cauley

Is saying words like gosh, golly, heck, darn, dang, etc. the same as saying the "bad" words? I hear lots of Christians say these words. Are they wrong?

Here is a good question. This shows that someone out there is concerned about their speech and the influence of their speech upon other people. The Bible has much to say about our influence through speech upon others. The passage that comes to my mind immediately is Ephesians 4:29 which says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." From this passage we learn that "corrupt" speech is not to be spoken by the Christian. The Christian's speech is to be for edifying, that is, building each other up. The Christian's speech is to serve grace or favor to those who hear it. Herein lies the standard for our speech and communication patterns.

There are three ways in which we can use speech in a corrupt way. First of all we can utter a curse upon something. This is basically what Jesus condemns in Matthew 5:22 "But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." To curse another person or even to curse God's creation is a sin against God. God made the earth and people as a blessing. We ought to respect God's blessing and not curse it.

The second way in which we can corrupt speech is by using God's name in vain. God told the Israelites in Exodus 20:7 "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." This principle is still true today. God does not want us to refer to Him in a vain or empty way. He is God and deserves our constant and complete respect. To use His name in an empty way is to not give God the respect that God deserves.

The third way in which we can corrupt speech is by taking something that God has made holy and make it common. The sexual relationship is one such example. God made that relationship to be holy, that is, set apart--between husband and wife. If we speak concerning that relationship as if it is just another common activity then we denigrate it. Many today speak of such matters in a flippant and joking way. Such should not be named among the people of God. Ephesians 5:3, 4 says, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." Now, all of your so called "curse" words fit into one of these three categories.

So where do the words in your question fall into these three categories? When we are unsure of the meaning of words, the best place to go is to the dictionary. When I looked up "gosh" it said that it was a euphemism for God. When I looked up "golly" it said the same thing. The word "heck" is a euphemism for "hell." The words "darn" and "dang" are euphemisms for the word "damn." The word euphemism means the following: "the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something unpleasant." Basically, a euphemism is using a word that doesn't sound as bad as the one that most consider offensive, but the meaning of the word is the same. So there is no change in meaning when we use a euphemism.

Let me offer an example. Suppose I was to approach someone who was sensitive about their loss of hair and say that they were really getting bald. Most would likely take offense at such a serious expression. However, suppose I suggested the following, "He is possessing fewer follicle appendages on the cutaneous apex of his cranial structure, anterior to the sagittal suture and posterior to the lambdoidal suture, where said follicle appendages habitually germinate." More than likely one would say that he is getting a little "thin on top." The one is a euphemism for the other. The design is to be less offensive, but the meaning is the same.

So think about those three categories of corrupt speech: the curse, using God's name in vain, and making common something that is holy. Are any of these words that we are discussing euphemisms for curses? Are any of them euphemisms for God's name? I think that we can see that they are and as such would be in that category of forbidden speech that Paul described as "corrupt communication." The euphemism itself (gosh, golly, dang, darn, etc.) is really just a milder way to utter a curse or use God's name in vain. Such corrupt speech ought not to cross the lips of the Christian.

*A Plea For Prayers  
Please pray for spiritual and  
numerical growth for the Chapman  
Congregation in 2023.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS BASKETS & CAROLING

**Sunday, December 17, 2023**  
After Evening Service

If you wish to help on  
purchasing items for  
baskets - box located in  
foyer.

*List of Names doing baskets  
for - posted in foyer - please  
make note if they are diabetic -  
want to make sure we don't  
miss anyone.*

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

**SICK SUNDAY:** Joy Simmons, Angela  
Bridges, Wilma Wood, Donna McMillin

**HOSPITAL:** Juan Stroupe (TCH/Rehab)

**SURGERY:** Bobby Lindley

**REHAB:** Joy Simmons (Diversicare)

**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Joanie Kate Reese,  
Everett Hurt, Olivia Pounders, Garrison  
Coats, Joe Clark, George Doss, Thad  
Berryman, John Walker Perry, Juanita  
Michael

**CANCER:** Dorothy Hopper (John's Mother)  
Billy McBryde (Rita Smith's Father), George  
Doss (Kelly Brewer's Father), Deborah  
Williams (Kim Lindley's Aunt), Ralph Shaw  
(Janie Chapman's Son-in-law), Loxlee  
Eaton, David South, Eddie Mauney, Haley  
Loveless, Sidra Davis, Trish Clark, Kevin  
Clifton, Austin Wentz, Betty Faye Ledbury

**SHUT-INS:** *Tippah County Health &  
Rehab:* Romia Palmer, Jimmy Berryman,  
Peggy Davis, Joe Clark

### TEXT ALERTS

Text **chapmancoc** to **8779897012** to  
receive Chapman's Text Alerts.

**Sermons available on Facebook and YouTube**