

December 8, 2024

Announcements

Kevin Shackelford

Song Leader

Logan Yancey

Scripture Reading

Luke Hobson

Opening Prayer

Mickey Chandler (A.M.)

J C Newby (P.M.)

Closing Prayer

Randel Koon (A.M.)

Ross Shackelford (P.M.)

Lord's Table

John Hopper

Count and Usher

Chase Chapman & Dale Vandygriff

Wednesday Night Song Leader

John Hopper (12/11/24)

OUR RECORD

December 1, 2024

Sunday Bible Study: 83

Sunday Morning Worship: 103

Sunday Evening Worship: 68

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 95

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 19th 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!

DOES GOD CAUSE IT???

James Pilgrim

Over the years, athletes, politicians, and others have attributed their victories or successes to God. Some have even given the sign of the cross, of Catholic origin, asking for help, or thanking

God when successful, suggesting that it was God who gave them the victory.

If the foregoing is true, there are a number of questions to be answered. First, was God in Alabama's corner when Nick Saban won seven (7) National Championships? If so, the teams the Tide played did not have a chance to win. Second, did God switch again to Georgia, when the Bulldogs won two (2) National Championships under Kirby Smart? Did God decide to switch again and give last year's National Championship to Michigan? Third, who will be His choice this season?

If paragraph one (1) is true President elect Trump could not have lost, and all who ran against him, whether in the primaries or in the national election, did so in vain. Those who lost in seeking to become senators, members of the house of representatives, governors, or whatever offices, did not stand a chance. They ran in vain if God is in anyone's corner, giving them the victory.

People win or lose due to a number of things, none of which have anything to do with God. In football, God does not cause fumbles, pass interceptions, false starts, delays of game, miscalled plays, and such like. Players do that. People obey Jesus because **they** choose to accept His call (Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 10:13). Matthew 25:31-46 speaks of those who either did or did not do what He asked to be done as being saved or lost. Otherwise, God does not make choices, certainly not in sporting events. Teams win or lose because of how they play, not because God is

in their corner. God is Omniscient, all knowing (Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 16:17; 1 Chronicles 28:9). God sees all, even football games, but He does not affect their outcome. Players do. God sees how we react, whether good or bad, but He does not cause any wrong reactions we may have to anything that goes on. Ephesians 4:26, "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." That is in everything, sports, or whatever.

According to the Presbyterians and Primitive Baptist Confession, John Calvin taught that "God from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatever comes to pass." Some, it appears, have seen the fallacy of that doctrine (Matthew 11:28-30; Revelation 3:20), and have tried to explain it away. It means what Calvin said. Thus, any church which follows the one who taught that doctrine must answer "Yes", to the question, Does God determine who will win ball games, political races, and such like.

Beloved, be careful what you speak. (1 Peter 4:11; Colossians 3:17).

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOLIDAY BASKETS & CAROLING

Postponed – will be rescheduled soon.

HOLIDAY TIME CHANGE
Midweek Bible Study will be on Thursday, December 26th for the week of Christmas.

FIFTH SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH

10:00 A.M. BIBLE STUDY

10:45 A.M. WORSHIP

12 NOON FELLOWSHIP MEAL

1:30 P.M. AFTERNOON SERVICE

PROGRAMS OF WORK

[Website: chapmanchurch.com](http://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](#)

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Ripley, MS 38663) or e-mail

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

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

HOME SICK: Bobbye Chapman

SUGERY RECOVERY: Roger McAlister, Larry Wood, Dustin & Kailyn Flanagan (Myra & David Palmer's Grandchildren)

SUGERY/TEST: Charlotte Lindley, Billy McBryde, Marsha Criswell

EXTENDED ILLNESS: Wilma Wood, Joanie Kate Reese, Pam Mathis, Lori Chapman, Garrison Coats, Joe Clark, George Doss, Thad Berryman, John Walker Perry, Juanita Michael

CANCER: Billy Gross, Wade Carmichael, Tiny Willis, Billy McBryde (Rita Smith's Father), George Doss (Kelly Brewer's Father), Ralph Shaw (Janie Chapman's Son-in-law), Loxlee Eaton, David South, Eddie Mauney, Haley Loveless, Sidra Davis, Tish Clark, Kevin Clifton, Austin Wentz, Betty Faye Ledbury

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

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Sermons available on Facebook and YouTube