

## TIME OF SERVICES

### Sunday:

Bible Classes 10:00 A.M.

Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

Worship Service 6:00 P.M.

### Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00 P.M.

### Preacher & Editor

Dick Blackford

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### Elders

Kemuel Camp (870) 935-0971

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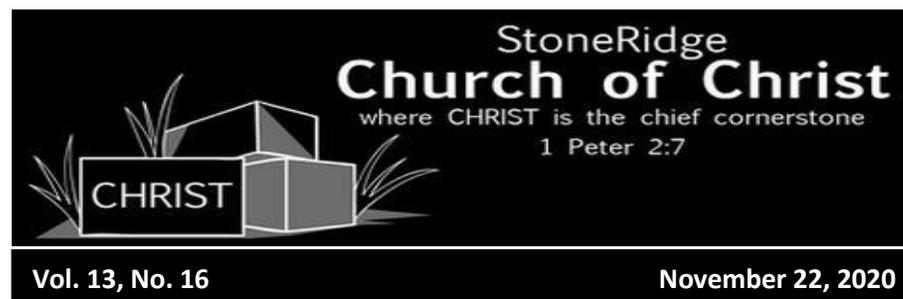
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**THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY, MAKES CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS ONLY. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS COMPOSED OF CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE NOT JOINED A DENOMINATION.**



## *Justified By Faith/Works*

**Paul taught that Abraham WAS NOT** justified by works (Rom 4:2). James taught that Abraham WAS justified by works. Some conclude that James contradicted Paul. A careful examination shows that he did not.

Paul wrote Romans and Galatians to Christians who were being tempted to give up their freedom in Christ and go back under the Law of Moses. he showed that the only way one could be justified by the law was by perfect obedience to it or by never sinning (Gal 3;10,11). he stated in Rom 4:4 that such perfection would make salvation a matter of debt that God would owe rather than of grace that God bestows. Further, such salvation would enable one to boast. Since all accountable people sin, justification is **always** on the basis of God's grace or undeserved favor. Abraham was justified in this way. He was justified by his **obedient faith** – not by sinless perfection through perfect obedience of the law. Man can never boast that he earned his salvation in this manner (Eph 2:8-10).

**James** wrote his epistle to Christians to refute the false notion that faith can exist without works. He used the example of Abraham's offering Isaac to show justification by an **obedient faith** (Js 2:20-26). Whereas **Paul** showed that no one can be justified by **perfect works**, James shows that no one can be justified without **works of faith**. People have trouble reconciling the two accounts because they fail to consider that Paul and James are talking about two different KINDS of works.

Jesus stated that believing in Him was the work of God (John 6:28,29). This is a work that one must do – not a work that God does but a work that God ordains



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for a person to do. Further, **trusting obedience** is indicated in passages like Rom 6:17,18. In Rom 2:6,7 Paul showed that this will be the basis on which the judgment will take place. In verse 8 he stated that those who are contentious and do not obey the truth will receive God's indignation and wrath. Paul also taught that God's saving grace requires that His children deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live righteously, soberly and godly in this world (Titus 2:11,12).

In Romans 4:2, Paul is teaching that works without faith will not justify. In James 2:21, James is teaching that faith without works **cannot** justify. Paul is denying sinless perfection as a means of justification. James is denying a **dead** faith (one without works of obedience, not manmade works) as a means of justification. It is truly a shame that so many are guilty of pitting one against the other.

### Work In Me

O Father, work in me

That I may seek Your will;

Provoke my heart with each decree

To listen and fulfill.

O Father, work in me

That I may work for You,

With faith to practice patiently

What You have said to do.

O Father, work in me

To do what You love best,

And I will trust You till I see,

Beyond my work, Your rest.

*M. W. Bassford*

## *News/Notes/Quotes*

**THE SICK.** **Elizabeth Keller** continues in NEA Baptist for rehab therapy following a procedure on her spine..... **Wanda Camp** continues to recover from a broken foot... **Alice Stevens** has been diagnosed with cancer. It is uncertain at this time whether she will receive treatments... Charles Bradsher has been diagnosed with Covid. Pray for him. ...Shut-ins: **Charles Bradsher** is at St. Elizabeth's...**Beverly Allen** is confined at home...**Gail Brooks** has been unable to be out...**Shirley Coots** is confined at Walnut Ridge Nursing Home...**Norma Carr** is at Randolph County Nursing Home in Pocahontas..

### GOSPEL MEETINGS

**April 4-9, 2021 –Stoneridge! – Mickey Galloway**

**Dec 5 – StoneRidge Annual Singing, 2 pm**

**BEREAVED.** We extend our sincere sympathy to the friends and family of our sister in Christ, Norma Carr, who passed away last Sunday.



***How much you love your neighbor can be measured by whether you feel the same when he borrows from you as when you borrow from him.***

***Usually the most miserable possession a man can have is the thing he hurt somebody to get.***

***It's funny how much easier it is for a fellow to take credit for something he didn't do than blame for something he did.***

***Maybe we can't keep folks from criticizing us – but we can keep them from having a reason to.***

