

## 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) 930-6970

Leon Christenberry (870) 935-4909

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### Deacons

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Jeff Ladyman (479) 236-5365

Steve Lands (870) 974-1976

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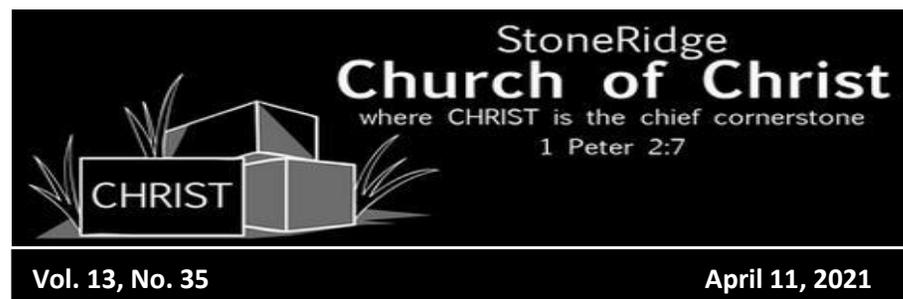
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**THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY, MAKES CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS ONLY. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS COMPOSED OF CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE NOT JOINED A DENOMINATION.**



## Jesus Makes The *Difference*

**Who is Jesus? Why does it matter?** We must all come to grips with the identity of Jesus. The question has been asked since he walked the earth (Mt 16:13-17).

**Jesus makes the difference in how I view the Bible.** It's made up of 66 individual books, written by more than 40 men, over a period of about 2500 years. It claims divine inspiration (2 Tim 3:16,17). Jesus is the primary character. The OT points to his coming; the gospel tells of his life; the rest of the NT tells what he taught and points to his coming again to judge the world.

*What did Jesus say about the writings in the Bible?* He upheld all of the Law of Moses in the OT (Mt 5:17-19). He established a new covenant with all of mankind as the old was being fulfilled (Mt 26:28). He authorized the apostles to carry his teaching throughout the entire world (Mt 28:18-20). And they did! (Col 1:23).

*What does this mean to us?* If Jesus is the son of God then his word will never pass away (Mt 24:35). So far, it hasn't! We will seek to do everything we do by his authority found in teaching of Christ and his apostles (Col 3:17).

**Jesus makes the difference in how I view sin.** Sin was why Jesus came to earth. He knew his purpose (Jn 1:29). His mission was to the lost (Lk 19:10). His teaching was for us to learn how to receive forgiveness. He spoke straight from the authority of the Father whose goal is for us to have eternal life (Jn 20:49,50). His teaching has always been for our ultimate good - in this life and the life to come (Dt 6:24; Jn 10:10). We should view his teaching with an attitude of love just as he gave them with an attitude of love (Jn 14:15). Love motivated him to go to the cross. To be forgiven, we must die to sin! (Rom 6:4-7).

**Jesus makes the difference in how I live my life.** He lived his life as an →

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example for us to imitate. He was selfless from the manger to the cross (Phil 2:5-8). It was one of servitude and he wants us to do the same (Jn 13:12-17). His greatest area of example was in his love, which we are to imitate (Jn 13:34,35). Our love for him is *directly tied* to keeping his commandments (Jn 15:12-15). We must examine what we do because he said not everyone who claims to serve Christ is doing his will (Mt 7:21-23). It's not merely *law-keeping*, but *love-keeping*. David loved the Law because he loved the Law-giver.

The Christian life is one of trial and persecution, but also comfort. He made it clear about persecution (Jn 15:18-20). Through these trials Jesus has promised us peace (Jn 16:33). The ultimate comfort he promised is heaven (Jn 14:1-6). These changes in perspective will change the way we *think* and *act* (2 Cor 4:18)

**Jesus makes the difference when this life is over.** His teachings in the Bible will be the standard on Judgment Day (Jn 12:48). The only thing that will matter is whether we are guilty or forgiven. Our actions will be taken into account as a testament of our obedience and love for God (1 Cor 5:10).

We observe the love Christ displayed for us (Rom 5:8). And we live our lives as a display of our love for him (2 Cor 5:14,15). He told us what we need to do. "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk 16:16).

Will you let him make the difference in **your** life? -db

*News/Notes/Quotes*

**THE SICK.** Continue to remember **Virginia Bishop** and some ongoing health challenges.... **Michael Cureton's** health issues haven't been pinpointed yet but they're still working on it... Pray for all of these **Shutins: Beverly Allen** is confined at home...**Charles Bradsher** is at St. Elizabeth's Place...**Gail Brooks** has been unable to assemble...**Shirley Coots** is confined at Walnut Ridge Nursing Home...**Elizabeth Keller** is at The Springs Nursing Home. **Editha Kern** is at Liberty Park Assisted Living....We're glad **Bob** and **Jean Evans** have been able to come to services recently.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

April 11-15 – Northside in Jonesboro – Simon Harris

**October 3-8 – STONERIDGE! – Wayne Fancher**

**CROSS TIES!** We rejoice with **Peyton Ellis** in his obedience to the gospel. He was baptized into Christ last Tuesday night by Steve Lands. Wise decision!

**NEWLYWEDS!** We also rejoice with **Jonathan and Angel (Meade) Stubblefield** on their marriage on April 3. They decided to participate in God's oldest divine institution. May God bless them on their journey. "Rejoice with those that rejoice" (Rom 12:15).



***The most essential element in any home is God.***

***Without happy families there can be no great nations.***

***A house is not a home unless it has food for the soul as well as for the body.***



