

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

Office (870) 933-9134
Home (870) 919-2266

Elders

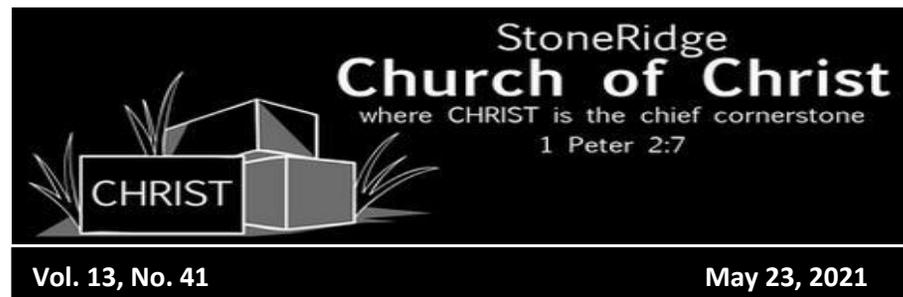
Kemuel Camp (870) 930-6970
Leon Christenberry (870) 935-4909
Scott Stubblefield (870) 934-8874

Deacons

Phillip Cassidy (870) 623-2588
Jeff Ladyman (479) 236-5365
Steve Lands (870) 974-1976
Travis Moody (870) 650-1649

Website: stoneridgechurchofchrist.com
Email: stoneridgechurchofchrist@gmail.com
Address: 514 Airport Rd, Jonesboro AR, 72405
Find us on: Facebook and YouTube

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.



Stephen's Prayer

Stephen's prayer was simple - "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. " One last request this man of valor made: "Lord, do not charge them with this sin " (7:60). With these quiet words, this first Christian martyr passed from a hateful and sin-sick world into that eternal world. His last words beautifully demonstrated the Sermon on the Mount: "Pray for them who spitefully use you, and persecute you " (Matthew 5:44).

When our little day is done on this earth, do we not look forward to meeting Stephen? What lessons we learn from one who was willing to forgive even the very ones who took his life! This forgiving spirit is the quality that distinguishes heroes. It enables man to "turn the other cheek" when he is wrongfully treated.

It keeps him from lashing out at his enemies and enables him to forgive. It helps him to endure the trials of life, and it molds his character into an attitude that is a habitual pattern of thought.

Let us remember Stephen and learn from him to have a forgiving spirit. It is not a lesson easily learned. It may take us a lifetime to truly be able to forgive those who wrong us. But, it will serve us well in this life, and point us toward heaven.

Truth and Tragedy

Tragic happenings have a way of waking us up.

- A terrorist attack reminds us to place our security in the Lord and not in the devices and achievements of men.
- A sudden death of someone we love reminds us that eternity is not far from any of us and we should make the most of every day.
- A sudden death of a child reminds us to cherish our own children.
- A marital breakup reminds us not to take our own relationships for granted.
- A lost job makes us appreciate a job we took for granted or complained about.

It would be nice if we never needed these "wake-up calls", but unfortunately, we do. These painful times sometimes seem like the only way God can get our attention. C.S. Lewis referred to pain as God's megaphone.

This last year has been filled with tragedy. Loved ones died. Christians argued over what to do about meeting in person. Churches lost their own. People drifted apart. Makes one wonder if the masks we wore during this pandemic revealed the masks we wore of devotion and intimacy.

As "normalcy" returns, let's not get back to normal. Ask the following questions:

- What worked during this last year? Why?
- What didn't work during this last year? Why?
- Do we need to rekindle the fire?
- How can we not take for granted any more people? Why did we beforehand?
- How can we not take for granted any more assembling together? How did that happen that we got stale?
- Who do we need to reach out to?
- How can we spend more time together to build stronger bonds?
- Add your own questions please and answers.

The cross was a tragedy that turned into a blessing because God was behind it all (Acts 2:22-24). This reversal of pain into gain resulted in God's people doing ... yes, that is how I want to say it. They were "doing" because they were "being" transformed from their own tragedies into God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" (Eph.2:10). *-Perry Hall*

News/Notes/Quotes

THE SICK **Corder Bouffard** (the Kern's great-nephew) who is only a few weeks old has been showing some improvement... Will Pierce has been sick and unable to attend... **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** at Liberty Park Assisted Living....

BEREAVED. Our sympathy is extended to the Bradsher family on the death of **Betty Bradsher**, wife of Charles and mother of two of our members, Karleen Sheets and Arlene Smith. Keep them in your prayers.

MARRIED. We rejoice with **Kyle Cassidy** and **Eryn Graham** who were united in wedlock yesterday. We wish them all of the best.



A good man does not hesitate to own he has been in the wrong. He takes comfort in knowing he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

Stretching the truth won't make it last any longer.

The difference between a prejudice and a conviction is that you can explain a conviction without getting mad.

God's Two Laws of Pardon

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." Romans 16:17

THE ALIEN SINNER

THE GOSPEL MUST BE HEARD

- Romans 10:17
- John 8:32

THE GOSPEL MUST BE BELIEVED

- John 8:24
- Mark 16:16

SINS MUST BE REPENTED OF

- Luke 13:3, 5
- Acts 2:38

CHRIST MUST BE CONFESSED

- Matthew 10:32-33
- Romans 10:10

THERE MUST BE BAPTISM (IMMERSION) FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS

- Acts 2:38
- Acts 22:16
- 1 Peter 3:21
- Galatians 3:27

THE ERRING CHRISTIAN

CHRISTIANS DO ERR

- James 5:19-20
- 1 Timothy 4:1
- Galatians 6:1

SINS MUST BE REPENTED OF

- Acts 8:22

SINS MUST BE CONFESSED

- 1 John 1:8-10

THERE MUST BE PRAYER

- 1 John 2:1-2
- Acts 8:22



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The best way to succeed in life is to act on the advice you give to others.

Past experience should be a guide post, not a hitching post.

