

## 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

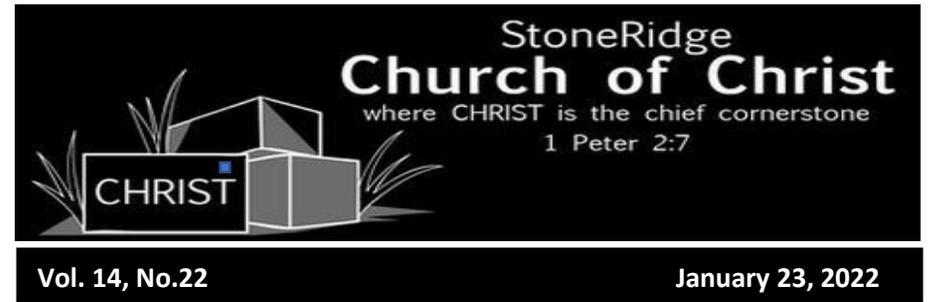
Kemuel Camp (870) 930-6970  
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### Deacons

Phillip Cassidy (870) 623-2588  
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Travis Moody (870) 650-1649

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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.***



## A STRONG CHURCH

How do you measure a strong church? Some judge strength based on numbers but “the way that leads to life” (Matt. 7:13,14), is not likely to attract the masses. Some judge the strength of a church by its building but a large, elaborate building has no bearing on the strength of a church. Some judge the strength of a church by the size of its budget but some of the strongest churches struggle financially, while many congregations with large budgets are weak spiritually. What makes a strong church?

### **A STRONG CHURCH RESPECTS THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCRIPTURES.**

It is made up of people who “do all in the name of the Lord” (Col. 3:17). These members seek God’s approval in their everyday lives as well as in work and worship. When these members speak of spiritual things, they “speak as the oracles of God” (I Pet. 4:11). When questioned about why they believe what they believe and why they practice what they practice, they are always ready to give an answer (I Pet. 3:15).

**A STRONG CHURCH IS NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL.** Whether it be concerning moral issues (such as fornication, homosexuality, divorce, immodesty) or doctrinal issues (such as the Deity of Christ, the unity of believers, the grace of God, the necessity of baptism), we must never be “ashamed of the gospel of Christ” (Rom. 1:16). We do no one a favor by “soft-soaping” or avoiding any Bible truth. We must never apologize for strict adherence to Bible truth.

**A STRONG CHURCH PRACTICES WHAT IT PREACHES.** Every member →

of the church should be “an example...in conversation, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (I Tim. 4:12). It should be evident to all who see us that we are preaching Christ because we practice “Christ-like-ness.” In order to do this we must be committed; we must be dedicated. Paul’s words should be our sentiment: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me; and gave himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

**A STRONG CHURCH IS FILLED WITH ZEAL AND KNOWLEDGE.** For the church to be strong there must be a blend of zeal with knowledge. It will do little good to have one without the other. To have zeal without knowledge will lead to error. Paul wrote to some who had “a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge” (Rom. 10:2). Their zeal was not good because, lacking the knowledge they needed, they sought to “establish their own righteousness” (Rom. 10:3) instead of submitting to God. But on the other hand, to have knowledge without zeal is like a car without gasoline – you’ll go nowhere. Let us be “...filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness” (Col. 1:9-11).

Individual Christians who are faithful, devoted and dedicated to the cause of Christ in every aspect of life make up a strong church.

### HE DIED ALONE

He made the earth...and it had no room for him;  
 He made the rock... and it was a tomb for him.  
 He made the steel...which pierced the very side of him;  
 The imbedded thorns...which became a part of him.  
 He gave their breath...to the mob which jeered at him;  
 He molded the shape...of the faces which leered at him.  
 Yet never a tear...did the multitude shed for him;  
 Though the sin of us all...lay heavy as lead on him.  
 He called to God...and God turned his face from him;  
 He died alone...O, the marvelous grace of him!

## News/Notes/Quotes

**THE SICK.** At this writing three of our members remain in the hospital: **Judy Johnson, Joyce Riley and Jerry Bishop**, who has been in ICU.. **Debbie Spencer** had a heart cath last week and then knee surgery...**Rita Cassidy** is also in the hospital. Virginia Bishop has also been in the hospital but should be released by the time you read this. **Terri Jo Cureton** is recovering from foot surgery and has to wear a boot two more weeks...**Mike and Cherilynn McFarland** are doing better. There may be others that haven’t been reported to the editor. Remember these in prayer and also check on them. **Madonna Vines** continues to recuperate at home from heart procedures... **Herb Starr** has been moved to the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House **Donald Crisler** continues his treatment for cancer...Remember our shutins: **Gail Brooks** and **Rita Kieffer** are both at St. Bernard Village...**Shirley Coots** at Lawrence County Nursing Home (hospice car)...**Charles Bradsher** at Craighead County Nursing Home... **Beverly Allen** confined at home.

**CROSS TIES.** We rejoice with **Zander Gilliam** who was baptized into Christ Wednesday night after a Bible study with Travis. Best decision ever. We will try to have the contact information for him in next week’s bulletin.

