

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.

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Elders

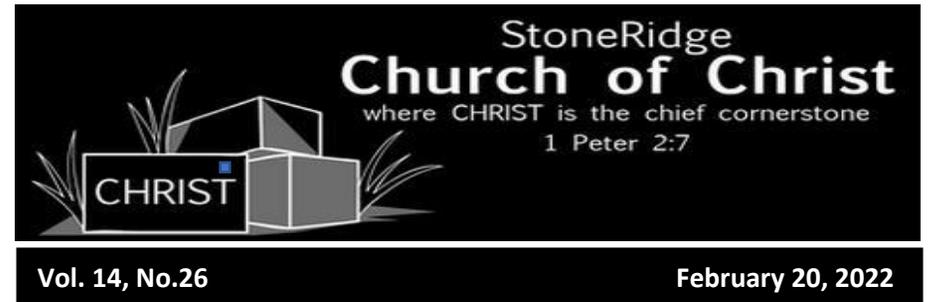
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THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY, MAKES CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS ONLY. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS COMPOSED OF CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE NOT JOINED A DENOMINATION.



Are You Waiting for Jesus or Just Passing Time?

There are many different attitudes concerning the second coming of Jesus. Many people today do not expect it at all. They believe that there will never be a time when history ends and eternity begins. There will never be a time when the voice of the archangel will herald the approach of Jesus to this world to collect and take His people home.

Then there is another group which anticipates the return of God's Son. They are so living their lives that should His coming occur this very instant they are ready. The Bible encourages us all to be in this group. " Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found in Him in peace, spotless and blameless..." (2 Peter 3:11-14).

Then there is a final group. Perhaps here is the ultimate tragedy. These people do not belong in the first group because these, rightly, do believe that He is coming again. But they do not belong in the second group because they are not living as though they anticipate His return. The kingdom of Jesus Christ and His righteousness are not a real priority in their lives. They are, more or less, just passing time without much sense of purpose or mission in their lives.

Let's discuss a little further the proper attitude toward Jesus, His coming again, and eternity, and how this attitude will express itself in our lives.

Paul, the apostle, wrote, "...since we heard of your faith which is in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel..." (Colossians 1:4,5). This passage goes on to tell of the wonderful things the disciples at Colossae were accomplishing, motivated by the heavenly hope within them. They are referred to as "constantly bearing fruit" and "increasing" (vs 6). God had given them a sense of purpose and their lives had taken on new



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meaning. They were not content with mediocrity. They were not here just to pass the time. They were on a mission and they would see it through as they anticipated that hour of final release which will accompany the coming of our Lord. They knew the value of their hope in Christ. "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God...And not only this, but also we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body..." (Romans 8:18-25). This wonderful hope is a blessing to us as we navigate life in a fallen world.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you"(1 Peter 1:3,4).

At the consummation of this age, great and marvelous things will happen. For those who are ready for that hour, there will be unparalleled excitement and joy.

There is something lacking in the life and spiritual health of one if he is so at home in this world that the eternal promises of God hold little attraction for him. The eternal blessings of Jesus Christ are alive and real. They are meant to answer our deepest, tenderest needs as we long for all that is missing in this fallen world. But we must have faith to comprehend the answers. "Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13).

When we behold our eternal inheritance for the first time, we will know that this is truly home. It will be how things ought to be. We shall be with the Lord and, according to Jesus, we will shine forth as the sun (Matthew 13:43). Evil and wickedness will be no more. Crying, pain and death will have ceased. The day of eternity will dawn and the day will never end.

Now then, you have been reading about what can be your future. Don't throw it away in exchange for anything this world has to offer. Never feel that your journey has been completed in this world. Do not make yourself so at home here that you lose your edge. There is simply too much at stake to allow the world to dictate what your attitude toward God, toward life and toward eternity should be. Let the Lord determine that for you.

- Jon Quinn

A wife is just the opposite of a fisherman; she brags about the ones that got away and complains about the one she caught.

News/Notes/Quotes

THE SICK. ...**Nathine Huskey** is still in St. B Hospital at the time of this writing, room 2002. She is hoping to go home soon. **Angel Stubblefield** had foot surgery on Friday and is now recuperating at home...**Joyce Riley** is now back at St. Elizabeth's Place. Pray for her. **Madonna Vines** continues to recuperate at home from heart procedures... **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 care)...**Joyce Riley** is at St. Elizabeth's Place...**Charles Bradsher** at Craighead County Nursing Home... **Beverly Allen** confined at home.

GROUP MEETING. Group 2 will meet at the home of the Blackfords' on Saturday night, February 26, at 5:30 p.m.



The world would be even worse than it is if more people preached what they practice.