


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.
Office	(870) 933-9134
Elders	
Kemuel Camp	(870) 930-6970
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
Preacher	
John Mundy	870-623-5339
Editor	
Dick Blackford	870-919-2266
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.	



StoneRidge

Church of Christ

where CHRIST is the chief cornerstone

1 Peter 2:7

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What Shall We Do With Suffering?

“Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:10).

ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT KINDS OF WEAKNESS TO ENDURE IS PHYSICAL DISABILITY. Even for the person of extraordinary spiritual strength, it is hard to keep a positive focus on God when the body is not able to function normally or is racked with pain. We understand, at least in theory, that spiritual concerns are more important than physical ones, but the fact is, our bodies are the instruments through which our spirits must do most of their work. When the instrument is broken, it isn’t easy to maintain joy and give thanks. What, then, should be our attitude toward physical impairments or diseases, especially those of a serious nature?

We should “go to the balcony” and look at each day from a larger perspective. If today is difficult, for whatever reason, the thing we must always do is see today against the backdrop of eternity. Today’s pain may be hard to bear, but it’s never the whole truth.

We should give thanks, if not for the pain, at least for the progress it produces in our character. There is no more challenging text in the New Testament than James 1:2,3, which says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.” The testing is not pleasant, and none of us should be so naive as to suggest that the physical

from front page

sufferer should just smile and be happy. Yet if suffering bathes our hearts in humility and reminds us to lean on God, it has done us a significant favor. "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities," Paul could say, "... for when I am weak, then I am strong." We should understand that our troubles are not unique. Paul also wrote, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man" (1 Corinthians 10:13). We may not personally know anyone who has had to endure what we're enduring, but what about the millions who've lived since the world began? Whatever our affliction, others have coped with it — and some have coped with worse. In fact, every person we've ever met is hurting in some way. Some become bitter, while others become better.

"I thank God for my handicaps; for, through them, I have found myself, my work, and my God" (Helen Keller). *-Gary Henry*



News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. Jack and Heath Ladyman were sick last Sunday...Remember **Beth Cossey** is still hospitalized in Searcy. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer to coordinate visits with her... **Virginia Bishop** still awaiting treatment for it.... **Gail Brooks** and **Rita Kieffer** have both fallen recently and received injuries... **Charles Wayne French** (Nola Christenberry's brother) continues to receive treatment for cancer. Remember our shut-ins: **Madonna Vines** is confined at home.. **Bob** and **Jean Evans** are also confined at home...**Gail Brooks** and **Rita Kieffer** are both at St. Bernard Village...**Shirley Coots** at Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... **Joyce Riley** is at St. Elizabeth's Place... Continue to remember all of these in your prayers.

GROUP MEETING. Group 2 will meet at Stubblefield's Feb 18, at 5:30.

PODCAST! Hear a lesson from God's word each morning from John Mundy on Facebook & YouTube, 8 am.

Ten Wild Dogs

The late king of a certain community had ten wild dogs. He used them to torture and eat any of his servants who made a mistake. One of the servants gave an opinion that was wrong, and the king didn't like it at all. So he ordered that the servant be thrown to the dogs.

The servant said, "I served you for ten years, and you do this to me? Please give me ten days before throwing me to those dogs!" The king agreed. In those ten days, the servant went to the guard who looks after the dogs and told him he would like to serve the dogs for the next ten days. The guard was baffled but agreed, and the servant started feeding the dogs, cleaning for them, bathing them, and providing all sorts of comfort for them.

When the ten days were over, the king ordered that the servant be thrown to the dogs for his punishment. When he was thrown in, we were all amazed to see the ravenous dogs only licking the feet of the servant!

The king, baffled at what he was seeing, said, "What has happened to my dogs?"

The servant replied, "I served the dogs for only ten days, and they didn't forget my service. Yet I served you for a whole ten years and you forgot all, at my first mistake!"

The king realized his mistake and ordered the servant to be set free.

This post is a message to all those who forget the good things a person does for them as soon as the person makes a mistake towards them. Don't put out the history that is filled with good because of a mistake you don't like.

