

## 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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### Preacher & Editor

Dick Blackford

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### Elders

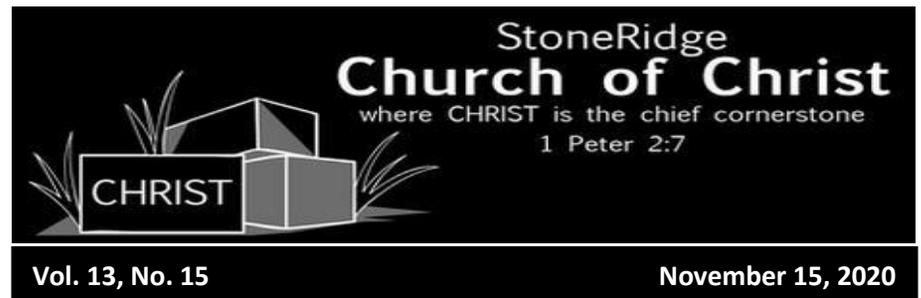
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### Deacons

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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.**



## *The Messenger or The Message?*

**Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's restaurants**, appeared in more than 800 television commercials. Viewers saw him as both believable and caring. Thomas always told those that knew him that he was *"the messenger, not the message."*

Those are good words to remember as we consider our lives as Christians. While our actions should always be consistent with what we say, our goal is to the point others to Jesus and not to ourselves. The apostle Paul said, *We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bond servants for Jesus' sake*" (2 Cor 4:5). Paul was not out promoting himself; rather he was focused on preaching the gospel of Christ.

Peter and John, after healing the lame man, preached the 2<sup>nd</sup> gospel sermon. The purpose of this miracle was not to impress the crowds, raise money, or to make a name for themselves. As Peter began speaking, he said, *"Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"* (Acts 3:12). He used the opportunity to show that this miracle was possible through Jesus Christ (v. 16).

John the baptizer knew that his role was to be a messenger for Christ. When people came to hear John preach and to be baptized by him, many wondered if he was the promised Messiah. John told them, *"I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose..."* (Lk 3:16). At another time, as John's disciples were concerned that Jesus was baptizing many people, John replied, *"He must increase, but I must decrease"* (John 3:30). John knew his place. The focus was no on himself but on Christ.



Through our words and actions, the focus is not on us but on Jesus Christ. It is not the messenger that is important but the message!

### Can A Person Fall From Grace?

John Calvin taught the impossibility of apostasy and it caught on with some major denominations. The concept is also known as “once saved, always saved” and “once in grace, always in grace,” and “the perseverance of the saints.”

However, the Hebrew writer said, “Take heed brethren (members of God’s family, db) lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God” (Heb 3:12). Paul said, “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; **ye are fallen from grace**” (Gal 5:4). He also warned, “Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor 10:12).

“Once saved, always saved” is a likeable doctrine and easily believed. But only the truth can make us free. Take heed.

**THE SICK.** Elizabeth Keller is in NEA Baptist for rehab therapy following a procedure on her spine..... Wanda Camp continues to recover from a broken foot...Dean Markle is dealing with continued health issue Remember him... Alice Stevens has been diagnosed with cancer. It is uncertain at this time whether she will receive treatments...I will be having a procedure in Memphis on Thursday to repair a hole in my heart...Shut-ins: Charles Bradsher is at St. Elizabeth’s...Beverly Allen is confined at home...Gail Brooks has been unable to be out...Shirley Coots is confined at Walnut Ridge Nursing Home...Norma Carr is at Randolph County Nursing Home in Pocahontas..

### GOSPEL MEETINGS

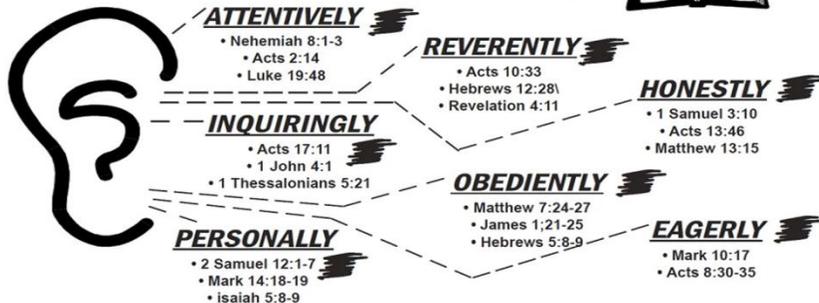
April 4-9, 2021 –Stoneridge! – Mickey Galloway  
Dec 5 – StoneRidge Annual Singing



## “Take Heed Therefore How You Hear”

Luke 8:18

### We Need To Hear:



### How Is Your Hearing?

*How much you love your neighbor can be measured by whether you feel the same when he borrows from you as when you borrow from him.*

*Usually the most miserable possession a man can have is the thing he hurt somebody to get.*

*It's funny how much easier it is for a fellow to take credit for something he didn't do than blame for something he did.*

*Maybe we can't keep folks from criticizing us – but we can keep them from having a reason to.*

