

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

Scott Stubblefield (870) 934-8874

Deacons

Phillip Cassidy (870) 623-2588

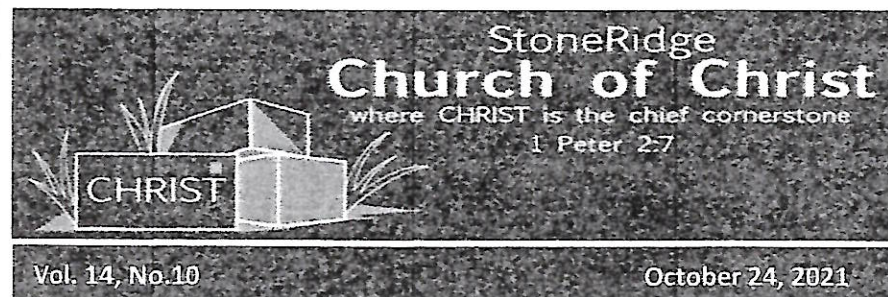
Jeff Ladyman (479) 236-5365

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.



Ponder This

If I had decided to be a Christian solely on how I've seen some Christians act or what some teach, I would have never become a Christian. I've seen some pretty awful behavior in my life from Christians. I've been on the receiving end of some terrible things. I've also acted poorly, to my shame. Based solely on these criteria, I have had many reasons over the years to disavow Christ.

There's a better way. I haven't given up on Christ based on what others do and say for the simple reason that committing to Christ is not based on what others do or don't do, but upon what Christ has done. People will disappoint, act badly, and teach bad things — including Christians. That does not excuse me from following the Lord.

That said, from the Christian's perspective, we have to realize that how we act, what we say, and how we say it can have a disastrous effect on whether others will receive the gospel. I am fully aware that some will take offense even when we speak the truth in love and act as God desires, but that's not what I'm talking about here. Here's what I'm talking about:

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

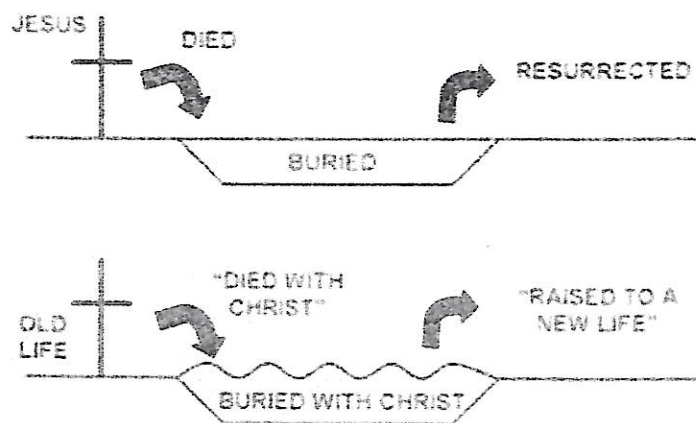
"I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me." (John 17:20-21)

People will take note of whether we love or don't love one another, and they will see whether or not we seek to remain united in Him. From these, they will make judgments on the merits of Christianity. These are not little matters, for how we behave can destroy how others think about even Jesus Himself. "That the world may believe you sent Me" should be ringing in our ears. It doesn't excuse them. But it won't help our case before God either.

Let us be committed to what Paul taught here: "Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." (Col 4:2-6)

Teach truth. Teach it in love. Live truth. Live it in love for God and one another. In this way we can be the lights we are called to be (Matt 5:14-16; Phil 2:14-16). Let us avoid being stumbling blocks on the path for others. -*Day Moyer*

ROMANS 6:3-5



News/Notes/Quotes

THE SICK**Madonna Vines** was to have surgery this past Friday. We hadn't heard the results by the time we went to press. Get updates today... **Joyce Riley** is to have open-heart surgery on November 5. She is scheduled for 5 bypasses at St. Bernard Hospital. Remember her in your prayers. **Editha Kern** was still in St. Bernard Hospital as of Friday (Room 2209). We should get an update today... **Donald Crisler** continues his treatment for cancer... .Remember our shutins: **Gail Brooks** at St. Bernard Village...**Shirley Coots** at Lawrence County Nursing Home (hospice car)...**Charles Bradsher** at St. Elizabeth Place...**Editha Kern** at Liberty Park Assisted Living... **Beverly Allen** confined at home.

CROSS TIES! We are happy for **Justin, Jessica, and Emmy Hager** who were baptized into Christ last Tuesday night. Rejoice with them! We will try to have contact info for them in next week's bulletin.

IDENTIFIED. We are happy to announce that **Tommy Johns** was identified with the congregation here last Sunday night. Again, we'll try to have contact info for Tommy in our next bulletin.

Ponder this, from John Piper: "So, the first and most important job of a parent is to fall in love with the worship of God. Any sense of being there out of duty or being forced to or some other reason besides I love being here, kids know that and they will hate it just like you do, deep down. You can't impart what you don't possess."

And this: "And this is true even if they say they are bored. Music and words become familiar. The message of the music starts to sink in. The form of the service starts to feel natural. Even if most of the sermon goes right over their heads, experience has shown that children hear and remember remarkable things. The content of the prayers and the songs and the sermon gives parents unparalleled opportunity to teach their children the great truths of the faith. What an opportunity. If parents would only learn to query their children after the service and then explain things to them, it would become enormously valuable for their long-term growth in the knowledge of God."+++