

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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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
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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.**

Vol. 15, No .49 July 16, 2023

“Let the dead bury the dead”

And he said unto another, *“Follow me. But he said, ‘Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.’ But he said unto him, ‘Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but go thou and publish abroad the kingdom of God”* (Lk 9:59,60).

The word “dead” is being used in two different ways. It is an apparent paradox, but is fitted to convey his idea very distinctly to the mind. Obviously, the physically dead could not bury another. The Jews often used the word “dead” to express indifference toward a thing, or to show that the thing has no influence over us. Thus, to be DEAD to the world, DEAD to the law, or DEAD to sin means that the world, the law, and sin have no influence or control over us. We are free from them. A body in the grave is not affected by the light-hearted things that may go on near the tomb. I used to live next to a graveyard. We never noticed any abnormal activities nearby. Even so, men in the world are dead to Christianity. They don’t see its beauty, blessings, and loveliness. This is the class of men to whom the Lord refers. “Let men who are not interested in my work (spiritually dead) take care of the dead (physically dead).”

There may have been two reasons for this hard saying of Jesus. **One**, to test the character of the man. If he had proper love for Christ he wouldn’t let anything keep him from becoming a follower, being a 100% disciple. He would leave his family in trying circumstances if it stood between him and Christ (Mt 10:37; 22:37). **Two**, if he returned to his family at that very time, his relatives might try to talk him out of it with emotional appeals such as *“Your father hasn’t even been buried yet and if you start following this man Jesus you’ll be condemning your* ➤

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father who is not a disciple.” (Similar things often happen today). Perhaps the Lord did not want him to suffer such ridicule at that time and was looking out for him.

Sometimes, whatever stood between the person and service to God was specifically required. He knew people's hearts. He cut through the chase and went directly to the heart of the rich young ruler and told him to sell everything and give it to the poor. Jesus knew he was a lover of money. In the OT Naaman was told to dip in the Jordan because God knew that could be the most humbling thing he could do, and God knew he needed to be humbled. If he had been told to donate a large sum to a charitable cause, that would have been easy (He was already willing to pay a high price to be healed). Obeying this humble act was beneath him but it was the very thing he needed.

Here in Luke 9, the man was told “let the dead bury the dead.” Christ had a thorough knowledge of human nature. There are often great sacrifices that must be made in order to follow him, even to the giving up of one's family. Nothing should be allowed to stand in the way. This was an exceptional case, not intended to mean that it is wrong to stop to bury our dead, but wrong when it conflicted with God's will. God wants us to recognize our duty to our parents, but our duty toward him is superior. At the command of Christ all conflicting obligations must be set aside. -db

If Jesus Said "Don't Judge AT ALL"


Then we cannot judge if someone is judging.

We cannot judge if someone needs to go to jail.

We cannot judge if the Corinthians were doing right or wrong in 1 Corinthians 5.

We cannot judge and pay complement to someone who is doing good, because that would be judging.

We cannot tell children not to do certain things because that would be judging.

We cannot judge if we should obey God in ANY matter. That would require judging. 

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. Rhea Vines is showing improvement but is recuperating at her son's home (Roger)...Joyce Riley can now have visitors...Francis Jones is still recovering from shoulder surgery... Pat Spencer is continuing with chemo treatment. Continue to pray for Betty Shrable....Karen Livsay has been in St. Bernard Hospital with low blood pressure and severe abdominal muscle spasms...Lynissa Davis is dealing with some ongoing issues. Remember our shut-ins: Madonna Vines is confined at home.. Bob and Jean Evans are also confined at home...Rhea Vines, at Roger's house...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... Pray for these!

BEREAVED. We extend our deepest sympathy to JaNae Moody on the death of her grandfather, David Young. His funeral was last Wednesday.

NEW ARRIVAL! Tommy Johns has a new grandson, Grayson, who was born early and is at NICU at St. Bernard's.

YOUTH TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP! The next meeting will be July 13 at the Weavers at 6 pm to work on learning to pray. What a great opportunity!

GOSPEL MEETINGS (Mark your calendar!)

JULY 17-21 STONERIDGE - VBS!!

August 3-4 - 10th Annual Ladies Bible Study - Hwy 5 Mountain Home

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

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We cannot judge whether our country or church is getting better or worse. That would require a judgment.

We could not judge evidence and come to a conclusion.

We could not be influenced by anything else Jesus said because it would require judgment.

It would require that we not use our brains at all. And that is where a lot of people have gone wrong in religion in America, and that is part of what is wrong in America. We have swallowed the idea that we can't judge right and wrong. -unknown

The empty tomb proves Christianity. The empty pew denies it.

There are three ways to get something done: Do it yourself, hire someone to do it, or forbid your children to do it.



