

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
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

Vol. 16, No .15 October 15, 2023

The “Unchurched”

“Unchurched” is a “made-up” word by those who believe evangelism should only be aimed at those who aren’t already members of a church. The reason for this is that they have judged that if you’re a member of a church then you don’t need saving. They have taken the view that if you claim church membership then “we’re okay and you’re okay.” In other words, they have **judged**. However, all error that displeases God is not committed by the “unchurched,” for Jesus also condemned **religious** error. “But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men” (Mt 15:9). Nor is it enough to claim to be following Christ. Jesus asked, “Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and **do not** the things I say?” (Lk 6:46).

Jesus was very clear that some who claimed to be following him would not be allowed to enter the kingdom (Mt 7:21-23). The OT also has much to say about religious error. Because many don’t feel that religious error is all that bad (as long as you’re sincere) that makes it even more dangerous. Therefore, the “unchurched” aren’t the only ones who need to be reached with the gospel. There are perversions of the gospel and God’s plan of salvation that are prevalent in today’s society.

A Barna Research Group found that one in three people are “unchurched,” and 81% of the “unchurched” were once involved with a church and the majority of those still consider themselves Christians. They just don’t have any use for

from page one
“church.”

Why not? Three reasons were listed by the research group: 1) No time, 2) bad experience with church leaders, 3) unwillingness to accept a church's doctrinal stance (for example, homosexuality is sin).

These results shouldn't be surprising. They are the fruit of denominational thinking and preaching. If you are “once saved, always saved,” then why bother with church? If you can be saved by “faith only,” why bother with church? If you can be saved without being a member of the church, why bother? Many have followed that to its logical end. If you can reject the Bible on some points, why not others – including worship requirements? If one belief is as good as another, why aren't these people just as right with God?

The unhappy truth of the matter **is**, the vast majority of the “churched” are as lost as the “unchurched” (Mt 7:21-23). It won't make you popular to teach that. For these and other things, Jesus was crucified.

God's word condemns “self-made” religion (Col 2:23). It presents Jesus as the only way to God (Jn 14:6). He has but one church which he purchased with his own blood (Acts 20:28). It is possible to practice New Testament Christianity in the 21st century. It is our aim to do that by teaching only what the Bible teaches without addition, subtraction or substitution. Don't you want to be a part of that? It is the aim of the StoneRidge congregation to be like the New Testament church. You can be a part and help us to reach that goal! -db

Good judgment comes from experience, and experience – well, that comes from poor judgment.

A man is no bigger than he treats the least of his fellows.

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. Jody Pickens was sick last week... Alice Mellow has improved and we're glad she's able to be out again... Sherry Horton had another back injection and needs complete rest... Gracelyn Lands will have surgery has been scheduled for 12/6... Virginia Bishop will have knee surgery on 11/9. Ruby Vanhooose (Virginia's mom) is now under hospice care... John Erickson has had several falls lately. Pray for all of these to be healed ... Corey Ladyman had foot surgery and has a large wound to heal ... At this printing Holly Kortan has not learned the results of her medical procedure... Karen Livesay is still dealing with some serious migraines... **Shut-ins:** Rhea Vines (at Roger's house)... Gail Brooks room 423 Lawrence Hall, in Walnut Ridge ... Rita Kieffer, St. Bernard Village ... Shirley Coots, Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... Joyce Riley at St. Elizabeth's Place... Bob and Jean Evans at home... Betty Shrable at home. Pray for these!

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Oct 22-27 – Village Creek – Brian Sullivan

GROUP MEETINGS. Group 1 is meeting Oct 21 at 5:30 at the Bearden's house.
