

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

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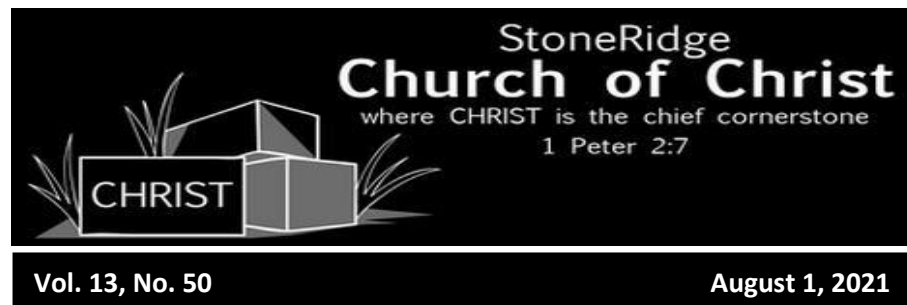
Kemuel Camp (870) 930-6970
Scott Stubblefield (870) 934-8874

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.



Jesus Was Amazed

Sometimes we are amazed at the things people do. It might be an act of tremendous courage, faith or strength of character. It might be extreme dedication and zeal, or unselfishness. For example, I recall being amazed at people who have lost loved ones due to the carelessness, or even evil intent, of another. They have spoken of not allowing bitterness and hatred to take up permanent residence in their hearts, explaining that doing so would only add to their burden in the future. While I have no doubt that their lives will be better after having defeated ongoing harsh sentiment, I wonder if I could do likewise. I would like to think so, and hope that I would, but also hope I never have to find out.

But at other times, we are amazed at the other extreme - acts of cowardliness and dishonesty. People can be very selfish, foolish and cruel. When such evil is perpetrated on another without remorse we are disturbed at such lack of honor and compassion. But not only that, but also indifference toward human suffering and need. Or denying the obvious when truth is not good enough for us. Yes, humans can be amazing in both positive and negative ways.

There are two occasions upon which the Bible says that Jesus was amazed, or filled with wonder, at the actions of others. One of those times had to do with a Roman military officer who had been observing Jesus. He sought Jesus out and told him of a servant who had become paralyzed and was in great pain. When Jesus offered to go to his house, the man said, "Lord, I am not worthy for you to come under my roof; just say the word and my servant will be healed." The →

Scriptures say that Jesus “marveled” and said, “I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.” (see Matthew 8:5-13). What amazed Jesus was not just that the soldier had such great faith, but also that it was found in an unexpected place: not in one of Jesus’ fellow countrymen, but rather, in a foreigner. This is why Jesus, on another occasion, would warn us not to make judgements based solely on appearances.

The other occasion had to do with the lack of faith He found in the people of Nazareth. Nazareth was the town in Galilee where Jesus’ family had moved when He was a boy. They could not believe that Jesus was a mighty prophet despite all the evidence.

I think I understand it to a degree. How could it be that the boy we saw grow up turn out to be a mighty prophet or even the Messiah? He used to make chairs in his father’s shop right down the street! How can He be a mighty prophet? Even Jesus’ own brothers had difficulty accepting that Jesus was the Messiah, coming to accept the fact only after they saw Him put to death, and then beheld Him alive again.

The people of Nazareth asked, “Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as performed by His hands?” They took offense at Him; “the carpenter” and “the carpenter’s son” they called Him. Jesus “wondered” at their unbelief because they personally had seen His miracles and heard His teaching (see Mark 6:1-6).

So the Lord was astonished at both the great faith of the centurion and the lack of faith in the Nazarenes. Now, the more personal question: “What do you suppose He thinks of your faith – and why does He think that?” *-Jon Quinn*

Don’t worry about tomorrow. God is already there.

To educate a man in mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society.

News/Notes/Quotes

THE SICK. Virginia Bishop is dealing with blood clots in her legs... Gail Brooks has gone home from Encompass...Remember JoAnn Williams, mother of Sarah Stevens, who is undergoing cancer treatment...Also remember Donald Crisler who is undergoing treatment for cancer... Shirley Coots is under hospice care at the Lawrence County Nursing Home.....Elizabeth Keller is at The Springs Nursing Home... Beverly Allen is confined at home...Editha Kern at Liberty Park Assisted Living....Charles Bradsher is at St.Elizabeth’s Place. Rita Kieffer is at St. Bernard’s Assisted Living.

BEREAVED. We are sad to report that Phil Cullison past away last Tuesday. Our sincere sympathy is extended to all his family, friends and loved ones. We will miss him.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

AUG 6-8 – Piggott – Daniel Sanders

OCT 3-8 – STONERIDGE – Wayne Fancher



