

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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**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. 15, No .13 November 27, 2022

The Lord Opened Her Heart

The Scriptures tell us about the conversion of an apparently very successful business woman in Acts 16. She became the first known convert to Christ on the European continent. Her name was Lydia. We read that "the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul." (Acts 16:14).

When the Bible uses the word "heart" in this way it does not refer to the organ which pumps blood through the body. Rather, the word "heart" sometimes refers to the center or core, like when we talk about getting to the "heart of a matter." The spiritual heart of a human being refers to the center of a person's intellect, emotion and will. It does not refer to the muscle in the chest when used in this sense.

The heart associated with finding and developing faith in Jesus as the Son of God includes our intellect and understanding. God invites us to use our power of reason as we evaluate His word. A good example of this is found in God's message to His wayward people in Isaiah's day. He invites them to use their reasoning abilities. "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. (Isaiah 1:18).

Reasoning involves the intellect and requires thinking. This is a vital part of conversion as well as continuing in the faith, and any repentance that is sometimes needed along the way. A purely emotional experience without the intellect involved is not what the Bible refers to as "conversion" nor "living by faith."

But the "heart" most certainly does also include our emotions in addition to our.

from front page

intellect. Several emotions become involved. We begin to desire salvation and come to appreciate God. We experience sorrow for our sin and Jesus' death. We love because He first loved us. We place our trust in Him by obeying His gospel and are comforted and given peace as we do. We then "go on our way" rejoicing

As those gathered heard the first proclamation of the gospel message following the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, we see both emotion (how they felt) and intellect (inquiry seeking to know what they must do) rightly involved in their pursuit of salvation.

"Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"(Acts 2:37).

They received their answer and some three thousand of them responded as instructed.

"Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38).

When people obeyed the gospel from the heart, it would result in a great amount of emotion, such as the Queen's Treasurer who "went on his way rejoicing" or the jailor at Philippi who "greatly rejoiced with his whole household." (Acts 8:39; 16:34).

Finally, in addition to our intellect and emotion, the heart includes our will. This is where we make decisions & change our priorities. We, as disciples of Jesus, come to echo His own words to the Father, "Your will, not Mine, be done." We make a conscious decision to obey, and when we do, we "obey from the heart" "But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. (Romans. 6:17,18).

This is true "heart felt" religion. It is not vague; it is not cheap. It is neither anti-intellectual nor anti-emotional. It is precious, strong, and enduring. May the gospel continue to open human hearts!

--Jon W. Quinn

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. **Beth Cossey** had a trach installed to help her breathe. The family is considering a long-term care facility.... **J.D. McGregor** is doing better at home, but time is needed for him to heal... **Virginia Bishop** is having a lot of pain and should be receiving treatment soon... Linda Ladyman had eye surgery last week and was experiencing some pain. Hopefully that will be over soon.... Continue to remember **Charles Wayne French** (Nola Christenberry's brother) as he undergoes cancer treatments... Continued prayers needed for all of these... **Donald Crisler** continues his treatment for cancer... Remember our shut-ins: **Madonna Vines** is confined at home. **Bob** and **Jean Evans** are also confined at home... **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... Continue to remember all of these in your prayers.

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





***If any offense comes out of the truth, it is better
that the offense come than the truth be concealed.***

The only nation that, in some way, does not become Babylon is the holy nation of God, the body of Christ. God's nation today is not marked off by physical boundaries or ruled by earthly kings. It is the nation of which Christians are citizens first and foremost. Let us act accordingly:

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."
(1 Pet 2:9-10)

"Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain." (Phi 2:14-16)

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself." (Phil 3:20-21).



If every member were just like you, would we need to build more seats or close the doors?

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