

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 .8 October 1, 2023

DOCTRINE. Does It Really Matter?

Many who claim no religious affiliation are “turned off” by doctrinal preaching and teaching. The whole idea behind the ecumenical movement is that doctrine is not important so long as we agree on “basic issues.” Doctrine is boring and what we really need are more social projects and lots of conviviality, is the idea behind this movement. It is an attempt to compromise doctrinal views and unite all who claim to be Christians. But doctrine means teaching. The terms are synonyms.

What if we differ on baptism? Or the organization, work, and worship of the church? Premillennialism? Predestination? Once saved, always saved? It is said that they are doctrine, thus not important to fellowship. One does not have to be right on these so long as he is a good moral, benevolent person. Isn't that what many believe?

Now to the question that seems to bore people - **What does the Bible teach?** It teaches that though a religious practice may be considered immoral, it is still wrong if it is without Bible authority!

Example: The Pharisees were washing their hands, pots, cups, and vessels as a religious practice (Mt 15:1-9). Is there anything morally wrong with that? No, we highly recommend being sanitary. *Then why did Jesus condemn it?* Because →

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they had turned it into a religious ritual. “*But in vain do they worship me teaching as their **doctrine** the commandments of men*” (Mt 15:9). What more could Jesus have said to impress us with the fact that *religious error is just as wrong as moral error??* Washing your hands, pots, cups and vessels is a wholesome practice. Nothing seems immoral about it, but it becomes *totally wrong* and repulsive to God when one makes a religious practice out of it. Though it seemed like a good idea in the eyes of men, it was a *lawless* act. There was no law **for** it (on its behalf). Jesus called it doctrine!

Altering the doctrine, whether through addition, subtraction, or substitution, is wrong in God's sight because it is without a law on its behalf.

We are to **obey** the doctrine (Rom 6:17,18). We are **saved** by the doctrine (1 Tim 4:16). We are **accursed** if we pervert the doctrine (2 Jn 9). We are forbidden to teach a different doctrine or go contrary to sound doctrine (1 Tim 1:3,10). We are **warned to beware** of strange doctrine (Heb 13:9).

Did you know there are some who **will not endure** sound doctrine (2 Tim 4L3). They are the ones who are bored with doctrine and say it doesn't matter. They are the convivial backslappers who have no real conviction and don't want to be called “narrow-minded.” They want a “social” and like to alter their worship to suit their aesthetic interests and entertain themselves thinking they are doing it for God. They never ask, *What do the Scriptures authorize?*

In view of what Jesus said to the Pharisees about introducing the precepts of men into our religion, we must examine our practices.

Even though they seem like wholesome practices, **which of the following have Bible authority (book, chapter, and verse)?**

1. Religious observance of a mass in honor of Christ's birth
2. Rosaries

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. David Ledgerwood has been sick but has shown improvement... Susan Pickens got a good report but will return to her doctor in a couple of weeks about her eye issues... Nola Christenberry has improved after having a skin cancer removed... Gracelyn Lands' surgery has been scheduled for 12/6... Mike and Cherilyn McFarland have been dealing with Covid... Beverly Allen has been sick and also fell recently... Holly Kortan's surgery still has not been scheduled... Karen Livesay is still dealing with some serious migraines... Jordan Martin and Erin Carole are still recovering at home... Shut-ins: Rhea Vines (at Roger's house. Roger has had Covid)... 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... Pray for these!

IDENTIFIED. Bob and Susie Johnson were identified with StoneRidge recently. Their contact info is: 2104 Sheffield Dr., Jonesboro AR 72401; (Bob) 618-200-1860, 52Bobj@gmail.com, birthday 11/20 (Susie) 618-579-6721, birthday 6/17, susanjohnson52@hotmail.com

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3. Lent, Mardi Gras, Easter
4. Instrumental music in worship
5. Calling a preacher “Reverend”
6. Church-sponsored recreation
7. Churches in secular business
8. Sprinkling and pouring for baptism
9. Teaching baptism is not essential
10. Hamburgers and coke on the Lord's Table

Numbers 1-8 are **additions** to the word of God. Number 9 is a **subtraction** from the word of God. Number 10 is a **substitution** for the word of God. The correct answer is “none of the above.” -db

Read the Bible. It'll give you a check up from the neck up.

What on earth will members of today's generation tell their children they had to do without?

My believing a thing does not make it true, nor does my disbelieving a thing make it false.

