

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 .7 September 24, 2023

The Value of A Gospel Meeting

It seems many have grown weary of “gospel meetings,” and some churches have quit having them altogether. That seems like a bad sign to me. So, what is their value?

REACHING THE LOST. The only hope for sinners is to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ for he is the only way to salvation (Rom 1:16; Jn 14:6). Vengeance will be taken on those who “obey not the gospel” (2 Thes 1:8). There may not be many who are outside of Christ who will come. But we have no way of knowing that, do we? Unless we are making up for not having gospel meetings by setting up home Bible studies, then we are closing a door of opportunity for others to hear the gospel. When we quit having gospel meetings we are “betting” that nobody will come anyway. I would rather not make that kind of a bet, wouldn’t you?

SPENDING MORE TIME TOGETHER WORSHIPPING. It is obvious that early Christians spent a lot of time together praising God and studying his word (Acts 2:42, 46,47). Gospel meetings provide a wonderful “excuse” to take time out of our busy schedules to do something that is genuinely important. Time spent glorifying God and stirring each other up to good works is never wasted but is always valuable.

EDIFYING EACH OTHER. Each local congregation is to build up (edify and strengthen) its members (1 Cor 14:26). Those who are bored with or ignore gospel meetings are surely a discouragement to their brothers and sisters in Christ. Where do you see yourself in this? Any time spent edifying the saints is time well spent.



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PUTTING SPIRITUAL THINGS AHEAD OF WORLDLY THINGS.

Jesus expects us to seek the kingdom first (Mt 6:33). A gospel meeting provides a unique opportunity to focus on the spiritual instead of the mundane things of this world - where much of our time is spent. We circle weddings, vacations, sporting events and holidays on our calendars and make sure we set aside time for them. Do we place as much emphasis on setting time for gospel meetings?

Gospel meetings are not the only method by which local churches may seek to reach the lost, but they are a useful tool and remember: *“So shall my word that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in that thing whereto I sent it”* (Isa 55:11).

Don't give up on gospel meetings!! -db

!Friendship

Friendship is not something that we can measure.
Friendship is wealth for us to treasure.

It is:

Trust that is deeper than the ocean's deep,
Unlimited kindness - ours to keep;
Unquestioned Honesty when face to face,
Respect, which time does not erase;
Uncounted Courtesies and Thoughtfulness,
Unending Joy in a friend's success;
Unfailing Sympathy when hearts are broken,
The Clasp of Hands - a soft word spoken;
Unparalleled Patience, mile after mile,
Beginning and ending with a Smile;
And Love, enduring to the end.

How beautiful, is the face of a friend. -*Jean Blackford*

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. Susan Pickens has been undergoing treatment for a detached retina...**Nola Christenberry** had a skin cancer removed but is now healing...**Gracelyn Lands'** surgery has been scheduled for 12/6...**Lee Chism** has been dealing with Covid...**Angela Johns** has recovered from Covid... **Chris and Rita Cassidy** have both been sick...**Teddy Horton** has also been dealing with allegly/sinus issues...**Beverly Allen** has been sick and also fell recently... **Bob Evans** has not been doing well...Two friends of Lynissa Davis were injured in a car/pedestrian accident and are being treated for injuries (**Jeremy Gossett, Jordan Montgomery**)...**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!

HELLO BABY! Congrats to **Jacob** and **Jordan Martin** on the arrival **Erin Carole**, born last Friday night, September 22. She weighed 7 lbs 9 oz and was 19.5 long. The family is still on cloud 9!

GROUP MEETINGS. Group 2 will meet Sept 30 at 5:30 at the Christenberry's.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Oct 1-6 - StoneRidge - Chuck Bartlett

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS. 1st - Kristi Murphy; 2nd - Alice Mellow; 3rd - Jesse Stevens; 4th - Jane Cureton, Catherine Sullivan; 5th - Virginia Bishop, Hunter Kortan; 8th - Kaitlynn Blackford, Madelyn Wilson; 9th - Sam Cossey; 11th - Lauryn Johns; 12th - Peyton Ellis, Rhea Vines; 15th - Courtney Harbin; 17th - Donna Camp, Eli Campbell; 18th - Beth Cunningham; 20th - Toby Rand; 24th - Lynissa Davis; 25th - Linda Ladyman; 26th - Arleen Smith; 27th - Roman Smith; 28th - Ryne Kimbrough; 30th - Kasch Malone; 31st - Caleb Weaver

No man became extremely wicked all at once.

Sin is not hurtful because it is forbidden, but it is forbidden because it is hurtful.

