

## 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 .19 November 12, 2023

## Things That Made Paul Cry

**The apostle Paul had learned how to be content**, regardless of surrounding hardships (Phil 4:11). When he wrote his short epistle to the Philippians, he was in prison. Still, the words “joy” and “rejoice” appear at least 18 times, making these key words in the book. Yet, the contented joyful apostle at times also served God “with many tears” (Acts 20:19). Perhaps we can benefit from considering what would cause this great man of God to weep.

**Paul shed tears out of concern for the doctrinal well-being of the church.** He told the Ephesians elders “*that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears*” (Acts 20:31). The context of the statement is Paul’s warning to these elders of coming apostasy, even among the elders, that would result in false teaching and in Christians being led away from the truth.

**Paul mourned when immoral living of members came to his attention.** He rebuked the Corinthian church for being puffed up, instead of mourning the fornicator among them, so we know that Paul as mourning over this matter himself. This should always be the reaction of the godly when such godlessness is exhibited! David once wrote, “*Rivers of water run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law*” (Ps 119:136).

**Paul wept when he had to write harshly to fellow Christians.** With reference 1 Corinthians, a forceful letter filled with correction of serious problems in the church at Corinth, Paul later wrote: “*Out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might*

*from front page*

*know the love which I have more abundantly unto you” (2 Cor 2:4). Paul’s tears stained his letter, just as parents’ tears flow freely when they, because of love for their children must exercise harsh discipline.*

Paul cried when he had to admit that some members of the church were actually enemies of the Lord’s cause. He said, “For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction...who mind earthly things” (Phil 3:18,19). How painful it is to have to admit that some brethren are not true to the Lord, and even to have to single them out by name as Paul often did! Yet faithfulness to God and concern for the well-being of the church requires that we sometimes point such out so that they may be avoided (Rom 16:17).

It is worthy of our notice that the things Paul wept over did not include financial loss, persecution, sickness, being away from friends and family, nor even imprisonment – and he suffered all these things! His attitude toward such things is well expressed in his statement in 2 Cor 4:17: *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...”*

Let’s be the kind of people who mourn for the proper things as did Paul: things that dishonor God, endanger Christians, and badly reflect upon the gospel. At the same time let’s be happy and contented people who can be joyful in spite of physical hardships and rejection by the world. *“Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice”* (Phil 4:4).

***We are too busy to visit the sick, by never too busy to be a pall-bearer.***

***A pessimist is a guy who crosses his fingers when he says “Good Morning.”***

## *News/Notes/Quotes.*

**THE SICK.** ...**Taylor Harbin** has been sick and unable to be out...**Beverly Allen** is being treated for Leukemia...**Debbie Spencer’s** back surgery is yet to be scheduled. **Susan Pickens** is still restricted on activity since being treated twice for detached retinas. .... **Gracelyn Lands** will have surgery on 12/6...**Virginia Bishop’s** knee surgery has been moved to 12/14... **Ruby Vanhooser** (Virginia’s mom) is now under hospice care... **Corey Ladyman** had foot surgery and has a large wound ...**Sherry Horton** had another back injection and is to have an MRI...**Holly Kortan’s** surgery is scheduled for 12/15pending... **Chloe Humblet** is away for some extended treatment .... **Shut-ins: Rhea Vines** (at Roger’s house)...**Gail Brooks** room 423 Lawrence Hall, 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!

**RESTORED AND IDENTIFIED.** We rejoice with **Jason Hembrey** on his public repentance and determination to set his life right last Sunday night. Be sure to meet Jason as he also identifies with the StoneRidge congregation. His info is:

**GROUP MEETINGS.** **Group 2** will meet on Nov 18, 5:30 at the Christenberry’s.



---