

### 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) 351-8420

#### 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



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### Learning To Forgive

An old slave had defied his master's orders not to read the Bible, and his master was beating him for it. As the whip tore his flesh again and again, his master began to taunt him, saying, "What can your Bible do for you now, old man?" The slave replied, "It can teach me to forgive you."

Can that be a true story? It doesn't seem possible that anyone could be that forgiving, does it? You might think that after the beating was over and his wounds healed, maybe then the old slave was able to forgive. But nobody could even think of forgiving while the whip is still ripping at his flesh. Yet the Bible tells us men have done that. First, **Jesus** (Lk 23:34). You may be tempted to dismiss this because Jesus was both human and divine, and you are "only human." But Jesus died as a human and felt all the things any of us would have felt under the circumstances. Jesus said, "*I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done...*" (Jn 13:15). Peter reminded us, "*because Christ also suffered for us, leaving un an example, that you should follow his steps*" (1 Pet 2:21). Second, **Stephen** (Acts 7:59,60). Of course, Stephen was altogether human, but he was so thoroughly influenced by the teaching and example of Jesus that he had come to have the same forgiving spirit. Isn't that what Peter is talking about when he says "*...through these you may become partakers of the Divine nature...*" (2 Pet 1:4). Our purpose is to show how it is possible for you and me to learn to forgive like this. Here's how the *impossible* can be made *possible*.

**We can learn to forgive like Jesus and Stephen if we rid ourselves of every**


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**vestige of self-righteousness.** We're aware of the self-righteous Pharisee (Lk 18:9-14). The Pharisees and scribes *"murmured saying, This man receives sinners and eats with them"* (Lk 15:1,2). Jesus responds to their self-righteousness by speaking three parables – the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (Lk 15:3-32). Jesus' teaching is a warning not to have the unforgiving attitude of the older brother (v.32). It gives proof that there is no sin that is so sinful that the Father is not willing to forgive (1 Cor 6:9-11). It shows that whatever causes rejoicing in heaven ought to cause rejoicing in us. *"There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents..."*(Lk 15:7,10,32).

**We can forgive like Jesus and Stephen if we truly understand that we are completely dependent upon mercy ourselves.** If you truly realize that we are completely dependent on God's mercy ourselves, then it should humble us toward others who are in the same situation. In the parable of the unmerciful servant a man is forgiven what has been estimated at \$10 million while he won't forgive someone who owes his \$17. We are to be *"tenderhearted, forgiving one another..."* (Eph 4:32).

**We can learn to forgive like Jesus and Stephen if we truly believe our own salvation depends on our willingness to forgive.** He who will not forgive others burns the bridge over which he himself must pass. The man who wouldn't forgive the small debt was delivered to the tormenters (Mt 18:34,35). If you don't forgive, neither will your Father forgive you (Mk 11:25,26).

**We can learn to forgive if we can look ahead to the good that can result from forgiving.** Paul letter to Philemon was an appeal to forgive Onesimus, the runaway slave, of any wrongs committed against Philemon. Paul encourages Philemon to forgive because the relationship will be far better & more rewarding (Phile 11,16).

**We can learn to forgive as we learn to overcome evil with good.** God devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged (2 Sam 14:13). It includes *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"* (Rom 12:21). After having treated him so terribly, Joseph's brothers couldn't believe how Joseph was so forgiving, but he was. We can also learn to forgive like Jesus, Stephen and Joseph. 

## *News/Notes/Quotes.*

**THE SICK.** **Tim Moody**, father of Travis, Trent and Trey has been diagnosed with CML (leukemia) **Beverly Smith** has been dealing with A-Fib but has been released from the Hospital...**Virginia Bishop** is dealing with shingles... Remember that **Linda Ladyman** is now at The Springs on Latourette Dr., room 313... **Beverly Allen** is in St. Bernard Hospital, room 2103. **Roger Vines** will have a heart cath on Tuesday...**Rhea Vines** will have shoulder surgery on Friday...**Shut-ins:** **Eli Campbell** at home...**Rhea Vines** (at Roger's house)... **Rita Kieffer**, St. Bernard Village, ...**Shirley Coots**, Walnut Ridge Nursing & Rehab... **Karen Livesay** at home...**Joyce Riley** at St. Elizabeth's Place... **Jean Evans** at Monette Manor, Monette AR...

**CROSS TIES.** We're rejoicing that **Levi Hembrey** obeyed the gospel last Wednesday night! His family is proud of him as we all are.

**GROUP MEETINGS.** Group 2 will meet on Sept 28 @ 5:30 at Steve and Kristi Lands'.

**CLASS @ 5 PM.** Remember the classes that are being taught by our college students for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade-college age. Bring your Bible. Questions? see Konor or Josie.

### **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

**OCT 6-11 – STONERIDGE! – Different Speakers**

**PODCAST** John Mundy – Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. On Facebook & YouTube.

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*"When somebody has been so unkind to you  
Some word spoken that pierces you through and through;  
Think how He was beguiled, spat upon, and reviled:  
Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you."* (Albert Orsborn 1916) , -db

**To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.**

**Never does the human soul appear so strong as when it foregoes revenge.**

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