

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

Vol. 17, No . 14 **October 13, 2024**

What Does The Church Owe ME?

Somewhere along the line there has developed an attitude that the church owes us something. The primary debt that some feel the church owes them is in meeting their social desires. I have never learned how this obligation incurred nor how the church became so indebted. The church is not a secular organization. Its work is **spiritual**. A lesson vital to all, yet hard to teach, is that one can go to heaven without having his social desires met, but **he can't go to heaven without the truth!** Some want their reward here and now!

I have searched the Scriptures diligently for a list of the church's obligations toward me, but I keep running into **my** obligations. So far, I haven't come up with even one obligation the church has toward me in the sense of indebtedness.

The concept that the church "owes me" is from the world. It is kin to the commercial, "Gi'me My MTV!" It depicts a guy throwing a tantrum, demanding that he gets to watch his rock music videos. It is self-serving. Even self-centered and self-indulgent – characteristic of the "I, ME, MINE" generation.

The church is the bride of Christ. It is His body, His kingdom, His family, His army, His sheepfold, etc. It is the realm to which our Lord adds the saved when they obey the gospel (Eph 5:23; Actes 2:47).

Twenty-four hours a day our Lord is giving to us. My obligation to assemble should be centered on Him, not me. It is a small thing He asks of us in our praise of His name. The denominational world, in its effort to turn religion into →

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entertainment, has influenced Christians into thinking the church is designed to **serve us** instead of **service**. So, some go around with the idea that the church is obligated to meet our social, recreational, and entertainment desires. And if it doesn't, it has failed in its mission. So they go in search of what they want instead of what God wants.

We stated earlier that the church has no indebtedness toward us. It is obligated to preach the gospel to **all**. It is "*the pillar and ground of the truth*" (1 Tim 3:15; 1 Thes 1:7-10). It has this obligation, not because of anything I have done or deserve whereby I could say "you owe me." It has this responsibility because God gave it.

We are reminded of the famous statement by President Kennedy: "*Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.*" Many want to know "what can the church do for ME?...What does the church owe ME?" They are not asking "What can I do for the church?" I have a long list of things we can do for the kingdom of God. It is not in much demand.

Somewhere we have gone astray. **-db** (from the Lake Rd. bulletin 10-13-02)

News/Notes/Quotes.

THE SICK. Sharon Horton had another cataract surgery last week and hopefully this will take care of her eye issues.....Gauri and Debbie Guha remain in rehab at St. Vincent's Hospital...Remember Tim Moody (dad of Travis, Trent and Trey) is being treated for leukemia. Beverly Allen is still in St. Bernard Hospital, room 2103. **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...

CROSS TIES. We rejoice with Haiden Malone who was baptized into Christ last Wednesday night. Wise decision Haiden!.....Also two were restored last Sunday. Phealon Suel and Amy Cooper requested prayers for struggles in their lives. We appreciate both of them.

GREAT GOSPEL MEETING! All the men who spoke for us last week during our fall meeting last week did really good with the topics they were assigned. There's no reason not to be strengthened by these edifying lessons!

BEREAVED. We sorrow with the family of Joyce Riley (mother of Angela Johns, grandmother of Lauren and mother-in-law of Ryan) who passed away last week. Her funeral was on Thursday.

In less than a month four of our families have been touched by death. Three of them were members at StoneRidge. The Grim Reaper never rests. Always be prepared to meet God.

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

***The Christian surely means to be considerate and kind in Heaven!
But why not here on earth and in these trying circumstances
where perhaps his friends and neighbors need it most? -Bolton Jones***

If I can put one touch of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I have worked with God.

The study of God's word, for the purpose of discovering God's will, is the secret discipline which has formed the greatest character. -J.W. Alexander
