

HAVE NOT JOINED A DENOMINATION.

TIME OF SERVICES

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 Phone: (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

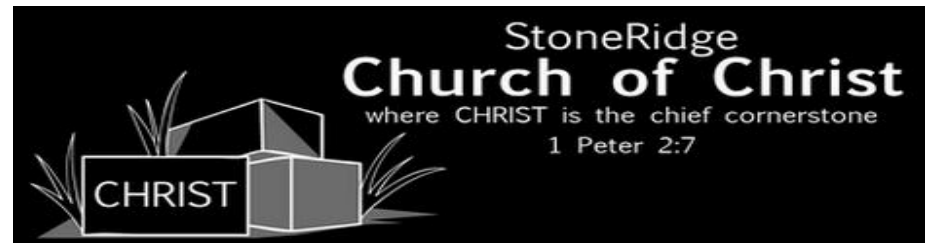
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THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY, MAKES CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS ONLY. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS COMPOSED OF CHRISTIANS WHO



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IF YOU'RE HIGH, JUST DON'T DRIVE

This sign in Brookland AR, near Jonesboro, is a reminder that we are entering the season when intoxicating drinks and drugs are consumed the most. We understand the sentiment on the billboard, but it gets the cart before the horse. If you're already high, your judgment has been warped and you're not likely to act responsibly and make wise decisions.

For awhile I collected newspaper articles about things people did while under the influence. It soon became depressing, but I will mention a couple. Our local paper, the Jonesboro Sun, reported on Dec. 17, 2003 that "One man is dead after a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Cash, AR." Three men who were drinking decided to play Russian roulette. One man died and the other two had to be transported to the ER. What happened to their wisdom and good judgment? They stifled it when they started drinking, but think of the fun they had before everything went south. I like the line in one of Merle Haggard's songs, "You don't have to get high to get happy."

Another article told about a man who was under the influence and was walking down Main St. in downtown Jonesboro, urinating on parked cars. He was arrested and taken to jail. He will surely be proud when his children and grandchildren come across this clipping. Many horrible things have happened

because of intoxicating drinks. Alcohol is a factor in about 40% of violent crimes. Also, about 4 in 10 fatal motor vehicle accidents involve alcohol. It impairs your judgment, lowers your inhibitions and makes it conducive for you to do things you wouldn't think of doing in your right mind. It's dangerous stuff.

The sin in intoxication is the "impairment of the mind," whether it is achieved with a bottle, a pill, a smoke, or a needle. The Bible gives an example of this impairment in a dissertation from Proverbs 30:29-35 –

29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?

30 Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

31 Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly!

32 In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper.

33 Your eyes will see strange sights, and your mind will imagine confusing things.

34 You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging.

35 "They hit me," you will say, "but I'm not hurt! They beat me, but I don't feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?"

Exhortation in scripture is to be "sober" (1 Pet 5:8; 1 Thes 5:6,8). Solomon compiled much wisdom. A lot of it was warnings against strong drink. Notice the description of a man who may have started out drinking lightly, thinking he could handle his liquor but is soon overpowered. He has woes, sorrows, strife, complaints and bloodshot eyes. He was bedazzled by the beauty of the sparkling brew, but it bit him like a snake. He hallucinates and his imagination runs wild (sees strange things, imagines confusing things), his judgment is so warped that he tries sleeping at the top of the ship's mast at high seas! Climbing to the top requires extreme carefulness and soberness. Even thinking about sleeping up there shows how seriously his mind is impaired. He gets in fights but feels "nothing" AT THE TIME. The feelings come later. He is talking out of his head. When will I wake up so I can find another drink?" That may be the hangover talking. Intoxicating beverages can pretend to be the solution to the

problems they caused. Don't forget, it's a mocker. That hangover is mocking you. "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise" (Prov 22:1).

You can have more fun in your right mind than you can out of your mind. Plus, you will have memories. Good ones!

"You don't have to get high to get happy." -db (from FACEBOOK, Dec 5, 2024)

I Wish You Health

So that you may enjoy each day in comfort.

I wish you the Love of friends and family, and peace within your heart.

I wish you the Beauty of nature, that you may enjoy the work of God.

I wish you Wisdom to choose priorities for those things that really matter in life.

I wish you Generosity, so you may share all good things that come to you.

I wish you Happiness and joy, and blessings for the New Year.

I wish you the Best of everything that you so well deserve! -*Unknown*

News/Notes/Quote

THE SICK. **Evan Campbell** will tonsils & adenoids removed on 12/27...

Phelon Suell had chest pains and went to urgent care. Doctor said probably stress angina. Now feeling better... **Courney Harbin** has been ill... **Bob** and

Susie Johnson and **Wanda Camp** were unable to be out last week... **Kathy**

Blackford will have more tests after a night in the hospital... **Cherilynn**

McFarland got stitches out of her foot & to see her doctor again in 3 weeks...

Prayers requested for **Wayne French** (Nola's brother), dealing with covid & cancer . Shut-ins: **Gauri** and **Debbie Guha** at home... **Shirley Coots** at Walnut

Ridge Nursing Home... **Ray Vines** at Roger's home... **Ruby Vanhoozer** is at

home under hospice care... **Karen Livesay** at home...

PODCAST. John Mundy – Monday-Friday. 8 am on Facebook & YouTube.

GROUP MEETINGS. Gr 1, 1/25, at Karleen's. Gr 2 at Pickens, 1/18. Both 5:30.

No one is ever too old to learn, but many keep putting it off.