

## DUTY ROSTER FOR APRIL 28, 2019

**Usher for This Week: David Bansemer**

**9:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**

Andrew Durham

**Scripture Reading:**

David Bansemer

**Scripture:**

John 5:31-36

**Prayer:**

Chevis Webb

**Lesson:**

Stacey Durham

*Witnesses of Jesus*

**Closing Prayer:**

Jim Barton

**11:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**

Alex Bansemer

**Scripture Reading:**

Gary Sells

**Scripture:**

1Corinthians 15:1-8

**Prayer:**

Bill Duryea

**Lord's Supper:**

Ron Dixon

John Fix

Chevis Webb

Kirk Webb

**Lesson:**

Stacey Durham

*More Witnesses of Jesus*

**Announcements:**

John Fix

**Closing Prayer:**

Doug Thweatt

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

**Song Leader:** David Bansemer

**Invitation:** Jim Stubblefield

**Closing Prayer:** Alex Bansemer

Creekview church of Christ  
930 Long Hollow Pike  
Gallatin, TN 37066  
615-452-8212

**Service Times:**

Sundays 9:00 AM Worship  
10:00 AM Bible Study  
11:00 AM Worship

Wednesdays 7:00 PM Bible Study

creekviewchurchofchrist.com

**LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION**

**April:** Steger  
**May:** Stubblefield

**SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING**

**April:** Steger  
**May:** Stubblefield

Elders: Ron Dixon, John Fix, Stacey Durham Deacons: David Bansemer, Kevin Hayes, Thom Steger, Doug Thweatt  
Preacher and Editor: Stacey Durham

## CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

APRIL 28, 2019

Volume 34 Number 17

### This World is Not My Home

**When all of the problems of this world pile up on your shoulders, it is a relief to think, "This world is not my home." The temporal problems that we have here - sin, sorrow, sickness, pain, death, etc. - have no place in heaven (Rev. 21:4). While we cannot ignore the difficulties of the world, we can take comfort knowing that Christians' citizenship is in heaven with our Lord (Phil. 3:20). As we assemble today, let us be aware that we are as close to heaven as we can be while still on earth, for we are with the citizens of heaven in the presence of the Lord, worshipping Him together.**

**To Our Visitors:**

Welcome to Creekview. We are thankful that you have come to worship with us today, and we hope that you find everything we say and do to be according to God's word. Please allow us to get to know you, and come back again whenever you have opportunity.

### news and notes:

- Tonya Stubblefield is recovering from gall bladder surgery performed on Thursday. Please pray for her safe recovery.
- Please remember the following members in your prayers: Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Dot Long, and Bessie Short. Also remember Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry and Dot Long's sister Melissa.

#### 52 Week Reading Plan: Week 17

Sunday-2Corinthians 1-3  
Monday - Exodus 13-16  
Tuesday - 2Samuel 1-4  
Wednesday - Psalms 48-50  
Thursday - Job 33-34  
Friday - Jeremiah 22-26  
Saturday - Mark 13-14

#### Gospel Meetings:

Skyview (White House) - May 10, song service

## Keep Your Behavior Excellent

In 1Peter 2:11-12, Peter gives an instruction concerning the behavior of Christians “among the Gentiles.” His use of the term “Gentiles” in this context does not only mean non-Jewish people (as in Roman 3:29, for example), but rather he is describing those who live in unbelief and defiance of God and His word. With that understanding, consider Peter’s instruction:

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul. <sup>12</sup>Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Before getting to Peter’s ultimate reason for Christians maintaining excellent behavior, let’s consider what he says concerning the present reaction of unbelievers. He says they will “slander you as evildoers” when you conduct yourself in holiness among them. Indeed, unbelievers often “call evil good, and good evil” (Isa. 5:20). Such slander is intended to discourage Christians from behaving in holiness by persecuting them and by creating a confused sense of morality. Notice 1Peter 4:3-5:

<sup>3</sup>For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousing, drinking parties and abominable idolatries. <sup>4</sup>In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you...

These passages show that unbelievers will speak evil of Christians for their excellent behavior, but other passages show that they will also speak evil of Christians for any bad behavior. This is indicated in Romans 2:24 (“The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of [your bad behavior]”), 1Timothy 5:14 (“give the enemy no occasion for reproach”), 1Timothy 6:1 (“so that the name of God and our doctrine will not be spoken against”) and other similar passages of Scripture. Taken altogether, we see that unbelievers will use a Christian’s good behavior to slander him as an evildoer, and they will also use any hint of bad behavior from a Christian as a reason to speak against him, Christ, and the faith. Either way, the “Gentiles” will speak evil of Christians, their faith, and their God.

This is an important lesson for those of us who are Christians. If we profess Jesus, then unbelievers will speak evil of us. There is no avoiding this reality. Paul affirmed this when he wrote, “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2Tim. 3:12). If we stumble in our words or deeds, then unbelievers will be quick to point out our hypocrisy and failure to uphold the faith we profess. If we successfully “abstain from fleshly lusts,” then they will accuse us of self-righteousness, “sin-phobia,” or worse. So then, knowing that unbelievers will speak evil of us regardless of what we do, why would we ever try to court their favor? Why would we conform our behavior to their sinful ways just to please them? Why would we compromise the teaching of God’s word in order to tickle their ears (2Tim. 4:3)?

Getting back now to the instruction of 1Peter 2:11-12, our excellent behavior among unbelievers will cause them to slander us now, but it will have a different effect later. Peter says that because of our excellent behavior and our good deeds, unbelievers will “glorify God in the day of visitation.” In the “day of visitation,” i.e. the day of judgment, there will be no pretense of calling “evil good, and good evil.” Unbelievers will no longer be unbelievers, for they will be forced to acknowledge the truth of what is truly good just as they will bow to Jesus and confess His holy name (Phil. 2:9-11). Thus, our excellent behavior is a testimony to God’s glory both now and forever.

Therefore, let’s keep our behavior “excellent among the Gentiles” as a fulfillment of our very purpose for being in this world. God has described His people as “everyone who is called by My name, and whom I have created for My glory, whom I have formed, even whom I have made” (Isa. 43:7). Jesus has given the mandate of Matthew 5:16, when He said, “Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” Although unbelievers may slander us now, they will ultimately glorify God for our excellent behavior. Because it is God whom we seek to please rather than men, let us disregard the intimidation of unbelievers while doing all we can to bring glory to Him.

*Stacey E. Durham*