

DUTY ROSTER FOR DECEMBER 2, 2018

Usher for This Week: John Fix

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Chevis Webb

Scripture Reading:

TBD

Scripture:

Matthew 25:24-30

Prayer:

TBD

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

A Higher Standard

Lesson 12 - A Busier Service

Closing Prayer:

TBD

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

David Bansemer

Scripture Reading:

Al Cotten

Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:10

Prayer:

Chris Huffines

Lord's Supper:

Doug Thweatt

Thom Steger

Wayne Baker

Gary Sells

Lesson:

Kevin Hayes

Song Service - Invitation

Announcements:

Doug Thweatt

Closing Prayer:

Bill Duryea

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Song Leader: TBD

Invitation: Chris Huffines

Closing Prayer: TBD

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

December: Fix
January: Dixon

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

December:
January:

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

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2, 2018

Volume 33 Number 48

Maranatha!

At the close of 1Corinthians, Paul wrote this word: "maranatha" (1Cor. 16:22) It means, "Lord come," and it expressed Paul's desire for the return of Christ. Are you ready for the Lord today? Can you say, "Maranatha, Lord come," or do you say, "Lord, wait"? If you are not ready, then get ready today. He is coming!

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:

- Marshall and Katie Hunt's daughter Esther was born prematurely on Thursday. She is doing well but will remain in the Vanderbilt NICU for a while. Please pray for this family.
- Signup sheets for the Lord's Supper preparation and changing the sign in 2019 are posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up for these duties if you can.
- Today in the 11AM hour, we will devote most of our time to singing with a theme of grace..
- Please remember these in your prayers: Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Bessie Short. Also remember Donella Jones' granddaughter Morgan, Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry, and Dot Long's sister Melissa.

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 48

Sunday - 1John 1-3
Monday - Deuteronomy 20-22
Tuesday - Nehemiah 1-4
Wednesday - Psalms 137-139
Thursday - Ecclesiastes 11-12
Friday - Malachi
Saturday - Acts 19-20

Gospel Meetings:

None to announce

What Shall I Render?

When we count our blessings, we run out of numbers to count them. God has blessed us so much and in so many ways that it is difficult to quantify or even to grasp the magnitude of our blessings. Like David wrote, each one of us can say, “My cup runneth over” (Ps. 23:5).

Accordingly, we should be grateful beyond measure, and our thanksgiving to God should abound. Everything God gives to us should be received with gratitude (1Tim. 4:4), and every blessing should turn our minds toward the One who provides it all (Jas. 1:17). How kind, merciful, and loving He is!

Certainly, gratitude and thanksgiving are appropriate, but are they enough? Isn't there something we can do in response to God's great blessings? The psalmist expressed this thought in Psalm 116:12:

What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?

This question deserves some consideration. When we ponder the greatness of God's blessings toward us, what can we give back to Him that would be an appropriate return? Finding an answer to this question becomes increasingly difficult as we attempt to measure the greatness of our blessings. It becomes impossible when we realize that God has given the best of heaven, His only begotten Son, as a sacrifice for our sins. Indeed, what shall we render to God for such spiritual blessings as we have through the death and resurrection of Jesus?

Perhaps we could make enough sacrifices to pay back God for His many blessings. Micah asked this question in several ways in Micah 6:6-7:

⁶With what shall I come to the LORD and bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, with yearling calves? ⁷Does the LORD take delight in thousands of rams, in ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my firstborn for my rebellious acts, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

Micah's questions progressively show that no sacrifices could ever repay God for all of His rich blessings. Thousands of rams would not suffice, nor would ten thousand rivers of oil. Human sacrifice is an abomination to God, but even if He accepted such offerings, a firstborn son would still be insufficient. David expressed the futility of sacrifices in two passages:

- Psalm 40:6 - Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; my ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.
- Psalm 51:16 - For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.

What then shall we render to God for His many blessings? Micah gave an answer in the same passage cited previously, Micah 6:8:

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

David likewise gave an answer specifically for how we should respond to God's forgiveness. Notice Psalm 51:17:

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Other similar answers are found in other passages of the Old Testament:

- Psalm 51:6 - Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.
- Hosea 6:6 - For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, and in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

How shall we summarize these answers? What is it that God really wants from us in return for His blessings? Goodness, justice, kindness, humility, a broken spirit, a contrite heart, truth in the innermost being, wisdom in the hidden part, loyalty, and the knowledge of God: all of this means that God wants our hearts to belong to Him. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matt. 22:37). This isn't a matter of repaying God for all He has done, but it is about simply rendering to Him what He wants. Doesn't He deserve that much?

Stacey E. Durham