

DUTY ROSTER FOR DECEMBER 30, 2018

Usher for This Week: Thom Steger

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Thom Steger

Scripture Reading:

Zach Webb

Scripture:

John 14:8-15

Prayer:

Adam Webb

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Loving God and Keeping

Commandments

Closing Prayer:

Alex Bansemer

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

John Fix

Scripture Reading:

TBD

Scripture:

1 Samuel 15:22-23

Prayer:

Jim Barton

Lord's Supper:

Ron Dixon

David Bansemer

Adam Webb

Zach Webb

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

What Difference Does It Make?

Announcements:

Doug Thweatt

Closing Prayer:

Kevin Hayes

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION

December: Fix
January: Dixon

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

December:
January: Hayes

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

Song Leader: David Bansemer
Invitation: Alex Bansemer
Closing Prayer: Ron Dixon

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

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

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

DECEMBER 30, 2018

Volume 33 Number 52

Keep On Trying

Did you have a good day yesterday? Regardless, try again today, for God has given you a new day. Did you have a good week last week? Regardless, try again this week, for you have a new opportunity beginning on this first day of the new week. Did you have a good year? Regardless, try again next year, for the new year begins Tuesday. Keep on trying, and don't give up "for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary" (Gal. 6:9)

To Our Visitors:

We are delighted to see you in our midst today. Thank you for joining us on this blessed day to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to our Father in heaven. May God bless you and your family.

news and notes:

- Lana Richardson is recovering from surgery performed last Wednesday. Please pray for her comfort and healing.
- The new quarter for children's classes begins next Sunday, January 6.
- Next Sunday, our 11AM song service will have the theme of beginnings.
- Signup sheets for the Lord's Supper preparation and changing the sign in 2019 are still posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up for these duties if you can.
- Please keep the following members in your prayers: Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Bessie Short. Also remember Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry and Dot Long's sister Melissa.

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 52

Sunday - Jude
Monday - Deuteronomy 32-34
Tuesday - Esther 6-10
Wednesday - Psalms 149-150
Thursday - Song of Sol. 7-8
Friday - Revelation 18-22
Saturday - Acts 27-28

Gospel Meetings:

Broadmoor (Nashville) - Jan. 4, song service

Old Time Religion

“Give me that old time religion, it’s good enough for me.” We like this thought from an old song because it suggests comfort, familiarity, and a well-worn path for us to follow in our faith. However, religion that is good enough in our eyes may not be good enough in the eyes of the Lord. Therefore, we must be careful that the old time religion we are given is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of God (Jas. 1:27).

The old time religion that we should seek is given to us by God through His holy word. In the New Testament, individual Christians and collective churches are given clear patterns and traditions to follow in their beliefs, teachings, and practices. Christians are admonished to adhere to these patterns and traditions from God as the expression of their faith in God, which is what true religion is (Phil. 3:17-21; 2Thess. 2:13-15; 3:6). These patterns and traditions have not been altered since the first century when they were originally given, so we may rightly call them our old time religion. In this sense, we should heed the words given to the Jews in Jeremiah 6:16:

Thus says the LORD, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls.”

There are also many old time religions that are given by men through their traditions. Such religions usually maintain some of the patterns and traditions of the New Testament while disregarding others in favor of traditions taught by men. Jesus condemned such corrupted religion in the Pharisees, saying in Matthew 15:7-9,

⁷“You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying,
⁸‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. ⁹But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrine the precepts of men.’”

The old time religion of the Pharisees was good enough for them in their own sight, but it was not good enough for the Lord. Indeed, Jesus said, “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the

kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20). Likewise, the man-made religions of today fall short of the Lord’s standard, although many people sincerely believe they are right.

There is yet a third variety of old time religion. Those who practice this variety do so simply because it is what they have always done. Their practice is a hand-me-down religion received from their parents, extended families, or some other trusted acquaintances. They do not know if the origin of their religion is God or men. They do not fully understand if it is right or powerful, but they observe it by habit and vain ritual. Their attitude is revealed in their motto, “I was born a (fill in the blank), and I’ll die a (fill in the blank).” Such religion may give the conscience a sense of piety, but it is hollow and has no substance.

So then, while the term “old time religion” can have many meanings, it is the obligation of every one of us to understand the meaning of our own religion. Is our religion the old time religion of the New Testament church, is it some old time religion from men, or is it just the old time religion of our family? Why do we believe what we believe? Each one of us needs to take ownership of our own beliefs and practices, for we are accountable for ourselves to God.

That being the case, let us be certain that our beliefs and practices are those commended by God through His word. Let us not embrace something just because someone else does it or because it is what we have always done. Let us not reject something just because it seems new and different to us. Instead, let us go back to the standard of the New Testament of our Lord to “understand what the will of the Lord is” (Eph. 5:17). Only there will we find the old time religion that is good enough for God.

Stacey E. Durham