

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
TBD

Scripture Reading:

Chevis Webb
Philippians 4:10-13

Prayer:
Alex Bansemer

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
What Can You Do?
Lesson 12 – You Can Do All Things

Closing Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Wednesday, December 11
Song Leader: Bailey Steger
Invitation: John Fix
Prayer: Jim Barton

Lord's Supper Preparation
December: Fix
January: Dixon

Change Sign Message:
December: Durham
January: Durham

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Alex Bansemer

Scripture Reading:

Al Cotten
1 Kings 2:1-4

Prayer:
Ron Hunt

Lord's Supper:
Ron Hunt
Bill Duryea
Chris Huffines
Wayne Baker

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Passing the Torch

Announcements:
Ron Dixon

Closing Prayer:
David Bansemer

Usher for This Week:
David Bansemer

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Give Me the Bible

The Bereans were noble-minded because they searched the Scriptures to see whether the words they were hearing were true (Acts 17:11). What about us? Do we search the Scriptures so that we believe only the truth? Let us always demand the Bible.

To Our Visitors:

We hope that you find our services to be Scriptural in all things and edifying to your souls. Thank you for coming to be with us today, and may God bless you as you walk with Him.

DECEMBER

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SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAYS:

WORSHIP: 9:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY: 10:00 AM
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS:

BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

Sticks and Stones and Profanity

Can you imagine living in a country where you could be stoned to death for picking up sticks on a Saturday? What if there was a penalty of death by stoning for saying certain words that are currently heard every day in public across the United States? Such a place once existed, and it was the nation of Israel under the Law of Moses.

Americans would tend to think of such a country as oppressive, but that is because our culture does not understand the offense that garnered such penalties. That offense is profaning (treating as common or worthless) that which is holy. When a citizen of Israel profaned God's holy things, it was indeed one of the highest crimes he could commit, and it was therefore punishable by death.

Two similar events recorded in Moses' writings demonstrate the offense of profanity. In Numbers 15:32-36, a man of Israel was found gathering wood on a sabbath day, which was the seventh day of the week. God had designated the sabbath day as holy, and the people were not permitted to work on that day (Ex. 20:8-11). Because this was the first case of a man violating the sabbath law, there was no precedent for how he should be punished. When Moses inquired of God, he was instructed to have the congregation stone the offender to death outside of the camp.

In Leviticus 24:10-16, a man was heard blaspheming God's name and cursing as he was fighting with another man. God's name is holy, and any vain use of it was prohibited (Ex. 20:7). As in the case of the man gathering wood, there was no precedent for how this man was to be punished. Moses received instruction from God that the man was to be taken outside the camp and stoned to death by those who heard him blaspheme.

In our modern society, such punishments would be unthinkable for these crimes. In fact, the charges against these men would not be considered crimes at all. Granted, we live in a different time, and the Law of Moses has no jurisdiction over us. We are not subject to the sabbath law, and the penalty for blasphemy does not apply in our land. Nevertheless, we would do well to learn the principle of holiness. Those things designated by God as holy are not to be profaned, and those who do profane them provoke the wrath of God.

It should also be noticed that circumstances did not excuse those who were guilty of profanity. The man who gathered wood on the sabbath might have needed the wood to make a fire so he could be warmed. Regardless, there was no excuse sought or accepted, and the man received the full

punishment. Likewise, the man who blasphemed and cursed was in a moment of anger and might not have meant to say such words. He also was not excused by his situation, and he was punished.

We should be thankful that in our time we are not subject to such severe and swift punishment. Through Christ, we can even receive forgiveness for sins, including the sin of profaning God's holy things. However, we must not become thoughtless and insensitive to holiness just because God is merciful, patient, and longsuffering. Profanity of God's holy things is still just as offensive to Him as it was in the days of Israel. This should cause us to fear, for it is commonplace for God's holy name to be used carelessly and for curses to be spoken with His name in our culture. Even some Christians speak His name in vain or use "OMG" with no regard for the holiness of God. This simply should not be. Therefore, let us always be careful not to be profane in word or in deed.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

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news & notes

- Kay Lanius remains at the Stallworth hospital for rehab and hopes to go home this week. Please continue to pray for her.
- Meagan Tachenry is scheduled for surgery on December 16. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Also remember these members in your prayers as well: Barbara Atkins, Kay Cook, and Donella Jones. Also pray for Wayne Wright, Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry, and the Fix's son-in-law Jody Baize.

reading plan

Sunday - 1John 4-5
Monday - Deut. 23-25
Tuesday - Nehemiah 5-9
Wednesday - Ps. 140-142
Thursday - Song of Sol. 1-2
Friday - Revelation 1-6
Saturday - Acts 21-22

meetings

Eastside - Dec. 20*

*song service