

DUTY ROSTER FOR FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Usher for This Week: John Fix

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Chevis Webb

Scripture Reading:

Bill Duryea

Scripture:

Acts 6:9-15

Prayer:

Ron Dixon

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Like the Face of an Angel

Closing Prayer:

David Bansemer

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Jim Barton

Scripture Reading:

Jim Stubblefield

Scripture:

1 Timothy 1:12-16

Prayer:

Louis Long

Lord's Supper:

Alex Bansemer

David Bansemer

Chris Huffines

Gary Sells

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Saul the Persecutor

Announcements:

Ron Dixon

Closing Prayer:

Wayne Baker

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Song Leader: Stacey Durham

Invitation: Chris Huffines

Closing Prayer: Doug Thweatt

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

February: Durham

March: Long

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

February:

March: Wright

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

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Volume 34 Number 7

Psalm 148 - Praise the Lord

- 1 **Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!**
- 2 **Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts!**
- 3 **Praise Him, sun and moon;
Praise Him, all stars of light!**
- 4 **Praise Him, highest heavens,
And the waters that are above the heavens!**
- 5 **Let them praise the name of the LORD,
For He commanded and they were created.**
- 6 **He has also established them forever and ever;
He has made a decree which will not pass away.**

To Our Visitors:

We are so pleased to have you in our midst today as we assemble to worship the Lord. Our hope for you is that you will be drawn closer to God by having been in this assembly today.

news and notes:

- Jim Cook has been hospitalized for nearly two weeks due to pneumonia but it doing better. Please continue to pray for him and Kay.
- Please keep these members in your prayers: Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Dot Long, Lana Richardson, Pat Ridings, and Bessie Short. Also remember Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and the Duryeas' son David.

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 7

Sunday - Romans 13-14
Monday - Genesis 24-27
Tuesday - Judges 7-11
Wednesday - Psalms 18-20
Thursday - Job 13-14
Friday - Isaiah 34-39
Saturday - Matthew 17-19

Gospel Meetings:

None to announce

A Bunch of Hypocrites

One of the most common reasons given for not attending church services is that churches are filled with hypocrites. The objection is that people in churches are pretending to be sinless when in fact they are as guilty as others. Because hypocrisy is so contrary to genuine religion, many people consider church services to be pointless and arrogant.

Whenever there is hypocrisy within a church, it is a serious problem. Hypocrisy is play-acting, which means that a hypocrite pretends to be someone he is not. Jesus strongly condemned the scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy on several occasions. In Matthew 23:2-3, He said to the multitudes in Jerusalem, "The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them." In the words that followed, He used the words "hypocrites" and "hypocrisy" eight times to describe these leaders of the Jews. He condemned them for exalting themselves, misleading others, swearing falsely, putting on a pretense of religion while being inwardly corrupt, and persecuting the righteous. If such things are happening within a church, then the Lord cannot be pleased with it.

However, it is not hypocrisy for forgiven sinners to assemble for an occasion of holy worship. Sincere members of the church do not profess to be sinless or flawless, and their expressions of worship are not proclamations of their own personal perfection. In fact, to be a member of the church one must admit the guilt of sin. Christians know that they were sinners like all others, but they were washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus (1Cor. 6:11). We must never forget this or pretend to be anything else.

Furthermore, it is not hypocrisy to repent and declare that sin is wrong. The first order given in the gospel of Christ is repentance (Acts 2:38). To repent is to change your mind and your actions concerning something done previously. Whereas a sinner views his sin favorably while he commits it, he sees his error and reforms his way when he repents. The fact that he behaved sinfully in the past but now abstains from sin does not make him a hypocrite. Likewise, speaking against the very sins he once committed does not make him a hypocrite.

Certainly, there are persons who claim to be Christians while continuing in sin. These are indeed hypocrites who are only pretending to be disciples of Jesus. Their hypocrisy lies in their failure to repent, and their souls stand in danger of condemnation. They put themselves in the category of hypocrites described in Titus 1:16, which says, "They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him, being detestable and disobedient and worthless for any good deed."

Even so, it is wrong to charge all churches and all church members with the guilt of a few hypocrites. It is also wrong to neglect your own responsibilities toward the Lord and your fellow man because you perceive hypocrisy in others. Genuine Christians seek to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), and they seek the welfare of their brethren. Both of these goals require membership in the church and assembly with other Christians (Heb. 10:24-25).

In truth, those who make the charge of hypocrisy against the church are usually only making excuses for their own refusal to serve the Lord. Their ostensible sensitivity to hypocrisy does not prevent them from working, having recreation, shopping, or doing any other activity with hypocrites, but it instantly repels them away from churches. They will find any instance of perceived hypocrisy in anyone who attends a church to be a convenient excuse for their own neglect. For this reason as well as others, Christians must be careful not to give an opportunity to them by behaving or speaking in way that is not befitting of the Lord (2Sam. 12:14; Tit 2:8). Yet even if a Christian does stumble, which all of us do at times (1John 1:8), it does not equate to hypocrisy, and it does not excuse others from their responsibility to faithfully obey the Lord. If indeed someone uses the sins of others to excuse his own sin, then he is himself a hypocrite who only pretends to be offended. Those who use such excuses should take note of the Lord's instruction in Matthew 7:5:

"You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye."

Stacey E. Durham