

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Chevis Webb

Scripture Reading:
Andrew Durham
Acts 5:34-39

Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Unstoppable

Closing Prayer:
David Bansemer

Wednesday, January 13

Song Leader:
Andrew Durham

Invitation:
Thom Steger

Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Lord's Supper Preparation
January: Durham
February: Long

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Alex Bansemer

Scripture Reading:
Louis Long
Joshua 1:6-9

Prayer:
Al Cotten

Lord's Supper:
Ron Hunt
Bill Duryea

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Let Us Be Strong

Announcements:
Jim Stubblefield

Closing Prayer:
John Fix

Usher for This Week:
Thom Steger

Creekview BULLETIN

"I Will Not Forget You"

None of us should ever feel forsaken or forgotten, for even if the whole world forgets us, God will always remember (Isa. 49:15). Therefore, let us always remember God, who loves us and provides for us every day without fail.

To Our Visitors

We are encouraged by your presence with us and your interest in the things of God. We welcome all true worshipers into our assemblies today and always. Thank you for coming, and may God bless you and your family.



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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

Reciprocity

Our society has trained people to expect something in return for nothing. They are made to think they deserve valuable things – jobs, college degrees, healthcare, etc. – without giving anything of value in return. This sense of entitlement is found in religion as well. Many expect to be saved by Jesus without a genuine commitment to Him.

This notion is contrary to the principle of reciprocity, which is taught in God's word. Reciprocity simply means that one receives according to what he gives. It is same as the seed principle, which is stated in Galatians 6:7: "Whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." Just as each plant bears seeds that reproduce plants of the same kind (Gen. 1:11-12), so also each person's efforts receive a result in kind.

Reciprocity is not just an idea; it is the law of God. Like the laws of nature, the law of reciprocity cannot be defied. Those who think they can defy this law are self-deceived, for the seed principle from Galatians 6:7 is prefaced with this warning: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked." Be assured, God's law always rules.

Reciprocity affects every area of life. It governs wealth, for we profit according to our labor (Prov. 6:6-11; 14:23; 28:19; 2Thess. 3:10). It rules in relationships, for we are to treat others as we want to be treated (Luke 6:31). It guides in spiritual matters, for forgiveness (Matt. 6:14-15) and judgment (Matt. 7:2) will be measured out in proportion to how they are given. Our relationship with God depends largely on reciprocity, just as the prophet Azariah told King Asa, saying, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the LORD is with you when you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you" (2Chron. 15:1-2).

Reciprocity should be understood in terms of quality rather than quantity. Again concerning the seed principle, Galatians 6:8 says, "For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life." Eternal life is a gift of a spiritual nature (Rom. 6:23b), and its value is too great for us to ever afford it. The point of reciprocity is not that if we sow enough, then we can earn eternal life. Instead, it that we will receive a reward according to the kind of seed we sow. Sowing a spiritual seed nets the spiritual reward of eternal life.

The law of reciprocity is not always apparent in this world, for people often benefit from lying, cheating, and stealing. Nevertheless, the just application of God's abiding law will certainly be made. In the Judgment, Jesus will

recompense each soul "according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2Cor. 5:10). Those who deceive themselves into thinking they have defied God's law will have a rude awakening, for they will not deceive the Lord.

So then, let us abide by God's law of reciprocity. Be kind, merciful, and forgiving, and expect to receive the same from the Lord (Eph. 4:32). "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (1Cor. 15:58). Sow bountifully to the spirit and expect to receive a bountiful, spiritual return (2Cor. 9:6). Lastly, be patient, just as God's word instructs in James 5:7-8:

⁷Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains. ⁸You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

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Stacey Durham

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Thom Steger
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news & notes

- Congratulations to Chris and Leah Huffines, who are expecting their first child in August.
- Prayers are requested for Donella Jones' sister, Velda Cross. She is suffering with blood clots in her lungs.
- Please remember the following members in your prayers: Barbara Atkins, Jeri Baker, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Laurie Polchek, and Kirk Webb. Also keep in mind Ralph Anderson, Jody Baize, Mishae Nevils, Wayne Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

reading plan

- Sunday - Romans 3-4
Monday - Genesis 4-7
Tuesday - Joshua 6-10
Wednesday - Psalms 3-5
Thursday - Job 3-4
Friday - Isaiah 7-11
Saturday - Matthew 3-4

meetings

None to announce