

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Brandon Ayers

Scripture Reading:
Doug Thweatt
1 Timothy 1:12-17

Prayer:
John Fix

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
*The Message, Not the
Messenger*

Closing Prayer:
Jim Barton

Wednesday, January 20

Song Leader:
Chevis Webb

Invitation:
Kevin Hayes

Prayer:
Stacey Durham

Lord's Supper Preparation
January: Durham
February: Long

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Jim Barton

Scripture Reading:
Bill Duryea
1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Prayer:
TBD

Lord's Supper:
Alex Bansemer
David Bansemer

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
*The Motives of Men's
Hearts*

Announcements:
Jim Stubblefield

Closing Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Usher for This Week:
Louis Long

Creekview *BULLETIN*

While the Earth Remains

In Genesis 8:22, God said to Himself, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease." The seasons show that God always keeps His promises, so now we look forward to new heavens and a new earth just as He has promised (2Pet. 3:13).

To Our Visitors

We commend you for your concern regarding the things of the Lord, which is evident by your presence with us today. Thank you for being a part of this blessed effort.

JANUARY

17

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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

Keep Talking About Jesus

A lot of folks are worried right now about the ability of big tech companies to control information. Specifically, companies that operate social media platforms and internet hosting services can suspend or delete the accounts of users whose messages are disapproved. This has begun to happen in the political realm, but it has ramifications that reach beyond politics. For this reason, many Christians are concerned that they could be silenced or otherwise penalized for posting messages from God's word.

Indisputably, big tech companies can and do exercise control over information on their platforms, but they cannot silence Christians. Whether they will attempt to do so remains to be seen, but they cannot succeed unless we allow them. Yes, they can potentially shut us out of social media, but they cannot stop us from talking. We own our own voices; we control how they are used.

It should go without saying that social media is not the only way to communicate. For most of history, mankind has communicated without the assistance of the internet. It is only recently that we have developed a dependence upon social media, and now it is as if we have nothing else. This is unhealthy and detrimental to the progress of the gospel. Not only can internet access be taken away from us, but more importantly social media can condition us to stop talking to other people. If this happens, then we have not been silenced, but rather we have learned to be silent.

No one can silence us if we refuse to stop talking. We know this because the Lord has told us so and history has demonstrated it. The world has been trying to silence Christians from the beginning of the faith, but it has failed. From the Jewish leaders, who ordered the apostles to stop preaching in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18; 5:40) to the Roman government, which first made Christianity illegal under Emperor Tiberius, no one has succeeded in silencing Christians. Faithful Christians have always responded as Peter and John did, saying, "We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). Even if they were persecuted, such undaunted Christians "kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ" (Acts 5:42).

So then, will we become silent if we are banned from social media? Will we stop talking about Jesus now for fear of being expelled from social media or otherwise slandered or blacklisted? Remember 1Peter 3:14-15, which says, "Do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a

defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." In other words, let us not be afraid, but instead let us keep on talking about Jesus.

Rather than worrying about what might happen, which we cannot control, let us be concerned about what is happening. The word of God should be sounding forth from us through every means we have. Right now, we have access to the internet and social media, so let us use these to teach the gospel while we can. More importantly, we have voices now and always as our primary tools for reaching others with God's word. We must not be silent. As long as there is breath in our bodies, let us keep talking about the Lord Jesus.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

Ron Dixon
John Fix
Stacey Durham

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Kevin Hayes
Thom Steger
Doug Thweatt

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news & notes

- Shirley Buchanon will be moving by the end of the month to be closer to her family. We pray that God will go with her and bless her.
- Ron and Becky Hunt's adoptive grandchild, Jemma Hunt, was born safely last week.
- Please keep the following members in your prayers: Barbara Atkins, Jeri Baker, Kay Cook, Bill Duryea, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Laurie Polchek, and Kirk Webb.
- Also keep in mind Ralph Anderson, Jody Baize, Velda Cross, Mishae Nevils, Wayne Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

reading plan

Sunday - Romans 5-6
Monday - Genesis 8-11
Tuesday - Joshua 11-15
Wednesday - Psalms 6-8
Thursday - Job 5-6
Friday - Isaiah 12-17
Saturday - Matthew 5-7

meetings

None to announce