

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Chevis Webb

Scripture Reading:
Kevin Hayes
Psalm 33:6-9

Prayer:
Andrew Durham

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Six Days of Creation

Closing Prayer:
Wayne Baker

Wednesday, January 22

Song Leader:
Bailey Steger

Invitation:
Chevis Webb

Prayer:
Bill Duryea

Lord's Supper Preparation
January: Durham
February: Long

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Jim Barton

Scripture Reading:
Chris Huffines
John 1:1-3

Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Lord's Supper:
David Bansemer
Alex Bansemer
Andrew Durham
Bailey Steger

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Jesus in Creation

Announcements:
John Fix

Closing Prayer:
Al Cotten

Usher for This Week:
Ron Dixon

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Now is the Time

In 2Corinthians 6:2, Paul quoted from Isaiah 49:8 and wrote, "Behold, now is 'the acceptable time,' behold, now is 'the day of salvation.'" There is no time like today to seek the salvation God has graciously offered through Jesus.

To Our Visitors:

We hope that you find the services to be edifying to your soul and glorifying to God. Our aim is to offer true, spiritual worship to God as He has authorized His worshipers to practice (John 4:23-24). Thank you for being a part of this blessed effort.

JANUARY

19

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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

Fasting

Fasting is a practice of religion that is rarely discussed among Christians. Although there is no mandate for fasting in the New Testament, this does not mean that Christians should ignore the practice. Instead, we should seek to understand the purpose of fasting, the appropriate occasions for fasting, and the manner in which fasting should be done.

Jesus taught that fasting should be done to be noticed “by your Father who is in secret” (Matt. 6:17-18). We seek to attract the attention of God by fasting, which is the reason it is often connected with prayer. The Scriptures offer many examples of God’s servants fasting with prayer, such as David, who mourned for his dying child (2Sam. 12:16), Nehemiah, who mourned for the desolation of Jerusalem (Neh. 1:4), and Daniel, who mourned over the sins of Judah (Dan. 9:3). In Acts 13:1-3, the church at Antioch fasted and prayed as they served God and sent Paul and Barnabas to preach the gospel abroad. In each example, those who fasted and prayed sought for God to give attention to them and hear their petitions.

From Isaiah 58:1-14, we can learn much about what God desires in a fast. In this passage, the prophet indicated that God had ignored the fasting of the people of Judah. The people asked, “Why have we fasted and You do not see? Why have we humbled ourselves and You do not notice?” The answer was that their behavior was not consistent with the genuine purpose of fasting. While they fasted, they also caused contention, strife, and oppression, which was contrary to God’s will. They failed to understand that the fast God desired was not merely a period of abstinence from food. Instead, He wanted an expression of true humility and mourning. For those characteristics to be true, they would be evident by actions such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked. If the people of Judah would combine their fasting with such deeds, then Isaiah said, “Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’”

The fast of Jesus demonstrates what a worshiper proves about himself before God. When the Lord had fasted for forty days and forty nights just before He began His ministry, the tempter said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread” (Matt. 4:3). However, Jesus replied to him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God’” (Matt. 4:4; ref. Deut. 8:3). Jesus did not need to prove to Satan that He was God’s Son, but He did prove the truth of the principle He cited. He was not living by bread but by the word of God. Likewise, any worshiper who fasts is acknowledging his

complete dependence upon God. He elevates his spiritual sustenance above his physical sustenance to show that He needs God’s word more than food.

So then, what we should know about fasting is that it is an acceptable way to worship God when it is done in sincerity and for the right reasons. Fasting can be done collectively, such as in a church (Acts 13:1-3) or in an entire nation (1Sam. 7:5-6), but more often fasts are individual and personal. Fasts are not appropriate as expressions of joy (Matt. 9:14-15), but typically they are for mourning, sorrow, or repentance. Fasts should never be done to appear pious before others, but rather they should be done in humility and kept private between the worshiper and God (Matt. 6:16-18). As a result of genuine, faithful fasting, a worshiper can expect to garner the attention and favor of God. This outcome is the goal of a fast, which makes fasting worth doing for all who seek after God.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

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PREACHER & EDITOR:

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news & notes

- If you are scheduled for a duty in an assembly and cannot attend, please notify one of the elders.
- Please provide a recent photo of yourself or your family to Stacey Durham for the church directory (email, text, or printed copy).
- Please pray for the following members: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, and Kay Lanius. Also pray for Jody Baize, Alta Lanius, Wayne Wright, Peggy Bailey’s daughter Sherry, and the Clemens family.

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