

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Bailey Steger

Scripture Reading:
Doug Thweatt
Matthew 15:1-14

Prayer:
Alex Bansemer

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Blind Guides

Closing Prayer:
Jim Barton

Wednesday, January 29

Song Leader:
Alex Bansemer

Invitation:
David Bansemer

Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Lord's Supper Preparation
January: Durham
February: Long

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Thom Steger

Scripture Reading:
Andrew Durham
Acts 17:1-11

Prayer:
Louis Long

Lord's Supper:
Jim Stubblefield
Kevin Hayes
Chevis Webb
Kirk Webb

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Outrage Versus Reason

Announcements:
John Fix

Closing Prayer:
Chris Huffines

Usher for This Week:
David Bansemer

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Are You Glad Today?

In Psalm 122:1, David wrote, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" Today, the house of the Lord is the church of God (1Tim. 3:15). As you come into God's house on this day of worship, doesn't it make you glad?

To Our Visitors:

We are very thankful that you have come to be with us as we approach God in worship today. We want you to know that our goals at Creekview are to learn, practice, and teach those things that are given to us through the word of God, the Bible.

JANUARY

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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

Reproof is Not Hate

A person who chooses to sin does not want anyone to tell him that he is wrong. He does not enjoy feeling shame, so he would rather not have anyone bring his sin to his attention. He does not wish to be aware of his accountability to God for his choices, so he would rather that no one mention it to him. His preference is to go on sinning without repentance while others say nothing to contradict his choice. More than this, he would be even happier if others would accept his choice or even commend his sin.

In our present culture, the preference of sinners is becoming the new standard to govern our speech. By this standard, there are few things more offensive than telling a sinner that he needs to repent. The sensitivities of sinners have become such a concern that those who would reprove a sinner are now characterized as hateful. "Declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent" (Acts 17:30) is tantamount to hate speech in our progressively degrading society.

Christians must not be influenced by this skewed perspective. It is wrong for us to hate sinners, but giving them reproof is not the same as hating them. Consider carefully the principle of Leviticus 19:17:

"You shall not hate your fellow countryman in your heart; you may surely reprove your neighbor, but shall not incur sin because of him."

This comes from the Law of Moses, which is not binding today, but the principle is universal and timeless. In this verse, the distinction between hatred and reproof is clear. To reprove your neighbor for his sin is not to hate him. In fact, this law gives two mandates. The first is not to hate your fellow countryman, and the second is to reprove your neighbor when he sins. The second mandate adds that by reproving your sinful neighbor you "shall not incur sin because of him." In other words, it is not a sin to reprove a sinful neighbor. Other translations (NIV, ESV) indicate an even stronger message, which is that if a man fails to reprove his sinful neighbor, then he incurs guilt upon himself. Again, this law was for the people of Israel and not us, but it still teaches an important principle.

Those who characterize the gospel message of repentance as hate speech are mistaken. In fact, they are more than mistaken; they are malicious and sinful. The Scripture speaks to such persons in Isaiah 5:20:

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

They are also described in Romans 1:32, which says,
And although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also

give hearty approval to those who practice them.

By opposing the gospel message of repentance, it is the intention of such persons to normalize sin and make it acceptable and commendable in our society. However, sin does not become good just because it is accepted and approved by a majority. Instead, those who approve sin bring guilt upon themselves because they "share responsibility for the sins of others" (1Tim. 5:22).

Far from being hateful, the gospel message of repentance is a message of love. Sinners will perish unless they repent (Luke 13:3), but they cannot repent until they hear and accept the truth about their sins. Our responsibility as Christians is to expose the "unfruitful deeds of darkness" and lead sinners to the light of Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:11-14). This cannot happen unless sinners are reprovved for their sins, which will cause them to feel shame, guilt, and sorrow. This process is not pleasant, but it is necessary for sinners to find salvation in Christ Jesus (Acts 17:30-31; 2Cor. 7:8-10).

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

Ron Dixon
John Fix
Stacey Durham

DEACONS:

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Kevin Hayes
Thom Steger
Doug Thweatt

PREACHER & EDITOR:

Stacey Durham

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news & notes

- David Bansemer has been suffering with pneumonia, so please pray for him.
- Updates to the directory are still in progress, so if you have photos or contact information to add, please see Stacey Durham.
- Please pray for these members: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, and Kay Lanius. Also remember Jody Baize, Alta Lanius, Wayne Wright, Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry, and the Clemens family.

reading plan

Sunday - Romans 7-8
Monday - Genesis 12-15
Tuesday - Joshua 16-20
Wednesday - Psalms 9-11
Thursday - Job 7-8
Friday - Isaiah 18-22
Saturday - Matthew 8-10

meetings

None to announce