

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Scripture Reading:

Prayer:

Lesson:

Title:

Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, May 20

Song Leader:

Invitation:

Prayer:

Lord's Supper Preparation

May: Duryea

June: Ridings

10:00 AM

Song Leader:

David Bansemer

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 5:25-29

Prayer:

Ron Hunt

Lord's Supper:

Thom Steger

Kevin Hayes

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Title:

How Important is the Church?

Announcements:

Stacey Durham

Closing Prayer:

Jim Barton

Usher for This Week:

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Christ is Our Life

In Colossians 3:4, Paul wrote that Christ is our life. Similarly, in Philippians 1:21, he wrote, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." These words mean that Christ has become the reason for a Christian to live (see Gal. 2:20). Today, we assemble to declare our praise and worship for Him.

Streaming Services

Our worship service will be streamed live Sunday morning at 10AM on the Facebook page of Stacey Durham. The live stream will begin a few minutes early so that viewers can connect.

MAY

17

2020

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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

Preparing for the Unexpected

At the beginning of this year, no one expected for the world to virtually shut down for fear of a virus. Such a thing was unprecedented in our lifetimes. Nevertheless, it has happened, and this proves how unpredictable life can be. The Scripture says, "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow" (Jas. 4:14).

So then, how can we prepare for the unexpected? We cannot anticipate every possible situation, and even if we could, it would be impossible to prepare for them all. While it is prudent to store away some emergency supplies, there is no way to know exactly what may be needed in any crisis. What then can we do?

The only way to prepare for the unexpected is to abide in principles that transcend any circumstance. One such principle is given in the Lord's mandate from Matthew 6:33: "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." By "these things," Jesus was referring to essential provisions, such as food and clothing. He taught us not to worry about "these things" but instead to focus on our mission in this life, which is to seek God's kingdom and His righteousness.

By staying focused on the big picture of life's purpose, we prepare ourselves to deal with any situation, including those we may not expect. This is because that which enables us to achieve our God-given purpose is not affected by changes in the world. With God, "there is no variation or shifting shadow" (Jas. 1:17), so our trust in Him will carry us through even the unexpected. Jesus is the same forever (Heb. 13:8), so we can rely on our faith in Him in every circumstance. The word of God endures forever (1Pet. 1:24-25), so we can always find the answers we need.

If we are fully committed to the Lord, then we will not be shaken by the unexpected. Even if our temporal circumstances become exceedingly difficult, our spiritual foundation in Jesus will weather the storm. Consider Peter's encouragement for Christians who were being persecuted in 1Peter 4:12-13:

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

The principle of this passage for us is that we should expect the unexpected. The Lord has told us that our faith will be challenged by the common hardships of life and also by targeted trials. None of this should surprise us, and there is one way to prepare for all of them: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts"

(1Pet. 3:15). When we are thus prepared, we can endure things we have never imagined.

Most importantly, our abiding commitment to the Lord prepares us for His coming. Jesus said, "You too, be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect" (Luke 12:40). Although we expect Him to come again, we cannot anticipate exactly when He will come. So then, we must be ready always. Consider 1Thessalonians 5:4-6:

⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

Readiness for the unexpected hour of the Lord's coming is also the best preparation we can have for anything this world may bring, including the unexpected. Therefore, let us remain focused on the Lord and not worried about what else may happen.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

Ron Dixon
John Fix
Stacey Durham

DEACONS:

David Bansemer
Kevin Hayes
Thom Steger
Doug Thweatt

PREACHER & EDITOR:

Stacey Durham

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news & notes

- All services at Creekview are now streamed live on the internet. These will be available for you to view if you are unable to attend.
- Please keep the following members in your prayers: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Laurie Polcheck, and Noah White. Also pray for Jody Baize, Alta Lanius, Wayne Wright, and Dot Long's sister Melissa.

reading plan

Sunday - 2Corinthians 9-10
Monday - Exodus 25-28
Tuesday - 2Samuel 15-19
Wednesday - Psalms 57-59
Thursday - Job 39-40
Friday - Jeremiah 37-41
Saturday - Luke 3-4

meetings

None to announce