

DUTY ROSTER FOR MAY 26, 2019

Usher for This Week: Ron Dixon

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

David Bansemer

Scripture Reading:

Ron Dixon

Scripture:

Ephesians 2:19-22

Prayer:

Doug Thweatt

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

The Temple of God

Closing Prayer:

Alex Bansemer

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Scripture Reading:

Bill Duryea

Scripture:

Titus 2:11-15

Prayer:

Kirk Webb

Lord's Supper:

Andrew Durham

David Bansemer

Chris Huffines

Jim Barton

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

*Deny Ungodliness or Deny
God*

Announcements:

Kevin Hayes

Closing Prayer:

Wayne Baker

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION

May: Stubblefield
June: Duryea

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

May: Stubblefield
June: Durham

Elders: Ron Dixon, John Fix, Stacey Durham Deacons: David Bansemer, Kevin Hayes, Thom Steger, Doug Thweatt Preacher and Editor: Stacey Durham

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Song Leader: John Fix
Invitation: David Bansemer
Closing Prayer: Thom Steger

Creekview church of Christ
930 Long Hollow Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066
615-452-8212

Service Times:
Sundays 9:00 AM Worship
10:00 AM Bible Study
11:00 AM Worship
Wednesdays 7:00 PM Bible Study

creekviewchurchofchrist.com

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

MAY 26, 2019

Volume 34 Number 21

Remember Me

As Jesus was dying on the cross, one of the thieves beside Him said, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Jesus has come into His kingdom (Acts 2:22-36), and we all hope that He will remember us. In that hope, Christians observe the Lord's Supper, for Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me" (1Cor. 11:23-26). Thus, we see that if we would be remembered by Jesus, then we must remember Him. Let us do so today as we worship God together.

To Our Visitors:

We commend you for your concern regarding the things of the Lord, which is evident by your presence with us today. 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.

news and notes:

- Next Sunday at 11AM, we will have our monthly extended song service. Everyone is encouraged to attend and contribute their voices to praise and edification.
- Please pray for the following members: Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanus, Dot Long, and Bessie Short. Also remember Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry and Dot Long's sister Melissa.

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 21

Sunday-2Corinthians 11-13
Monday - Exodus 29-32
Tuesday - 2Samuel 20-24
Wednesday - Psalms 60-62
Thursday - Job 41-42
Friday - Jeremiah 42-46
Saturday - Luke 5-6

Gospel Meetings:

Eastside (Bowling Green) - June 3-7, VBS
Millersville - June 3-7, VBS
Oak Ave. (Dickson) - June 3-7, VBS
Warfield Blvd. (Clarksville) - June 3-7, VBS

Ease in Life is Not Ease in Faith

Here in the United States, we have it pretty easy. We are prosperous and free, we have healthcare and plentiful food, and our technology makes living more convenient than it has ever been in the history of the world. Opportunities for employment and education are abundant. Our homes are climate-controlled, our water and air are clean, and travel is fast and safe. We can communicate with people all over the world by just pressing a few buttons on a phone. Information about almost anything we wish to know is immediately available through the internet. Yes indeed, when compared to many other places in the world and many other eras throughout history, life here and now is pretty easy.

For those of us who are Christians, we should realize how much easier our lives are than many of our brethren throughout history and even today. In the New Testament, we read about Christians who suffered famine (Acts 11:28-29), reproaches and tribulations (Heb. 10:33), imprisonment and the seizure of their property (Heb. 10:34), beatings (Acts 5:40-41), and murder (Acts 7:58-60). History records that Christians continued to suffer in these ways after the close of the New Testament, for many men and women who professed Jesus were tortured, maimed, burned, and murdered because of their faith throughout the centuries. These atrocities continue today. The Center for Religious Liberty has produced documented studies showing that the Christian religion is still the most harassed and persecuted in the world right now. So then, for many Christians both past and present, life has not been easy.

These thoughts are important for the sake of perspective, but there is an inherent danger in them that we must avoid. The danger is expressed in 2Corinthians 10:7: "You are looking at things as they are outwardly." Yes, life is relatively easy in the United States, but does prosperity, liberty, and convenience hinder the activity of Satan? Do these things make sincere belief in Jesus easier for us? Do they make us more likely to obey Christ and seek first His kingdom and righteousness more than anything else? The answer to all these questions is no. In fact, ease of life can make faith more difficult in many cases (Matt. 19:24; 1Tim. 6:9-10, 17).

The danger Satan poses is no less in a place of prosperity and liberty than in any other place. "The whole world lies in the power of the

evil one" (1John 5:19), and this means that Satan is highly active right now in every corner of the United States as well as every other place. The Scripture says that he "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1Pet. 5:8). He does not limit his scope to only those people who are poor, sick, hungry, or oppressed. He also prowls among those who are affluent, healthy, and free, and he finds many souls to devour wherever he goes.

On the surface, a life of ease is a great advantage, but we must look below the surface. If comfort and ease cause us to be focused on the surface, then we will be unaware of the spiritual level where Satan operates. He has declared a spiritual war on us, and we must fight back at the spiritual level according to Ephesians 6:11-13:

¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

This fight against the spiritual forces of Satan is not easy anywhere in this world, and it is impossible to win without the implements of war given to us by God, namely, truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the word of God, and prayer (Eph. 6:14-18). These are the tools that will lead us to victory in Jesus (1John 5:4). Ease of life, prosperity, liberty, convenience, technology, and all other outward things are of no advantage in this battle against the devil.

Therefore, let us never confuse ease of life with ease of faith. We may look at some of the hardships of our brethren in the world and think, "We have it easy." That thought may be true concerning temporal life, but it is incorrect in terms of spiritual things. The struggle is the same for all of us because we all fight the same opponent, and he uses the same tactics against us all. Indeed, the devil has many schemes, for he is a crafty opponent (2Cor. 11:3). Let's not be ignorant of his schemes (2Cor. 2:11), and let's not allow any temporal conditions to distract us from this ongoing spiritual war. It is not easy to overcome Satan, but "we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

Stacey E. Durham