

## DUTY ROSTER FOR NOVEMBER 11, 2018

Usher for This Week: To Be Determined

9:00 AM

**Song Leader:**

John Fix

**Scripture Reading:**

TBD

**Scripture:**

Isaiah 37:14-20

**Prayer:**

Chevis Webb

**Lesson:**

Stacey Durham

*Judah Versus Assyria*

**Closing Prayer:**

Thom Steger

11:00 AM

**Song Leader:**

David Bansemer

**Scripture Reading:**

Wayne Baker

**Scripture:**

Jeremiah 17:7-8

**Prayer:**

Al Cotten

**Lord's Supper:**

John Fix

Kevin Hayes

Bill Duryea

Ron Hunt

**Lesson:**

Stacey Durham

*Trust*

**Announcements:**

Ron Dixon

**Closing Prayer:**

Alex Bansemer

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

**Song Leader:** David Bansemer

**Invitation:** Alex Bansemer

**Closing Prayer:** John Fix

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

LORD'S SUPPER PREPARATION

**November:** Hayes  
**December:** Fix

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

**November:** Webb  
**December:**

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

# CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 11, 2018

Volume 33 Number 45

## God Cares for You

**Do you ever feel down and depressed? Do you feel like no one cares about your problems? Nothing could be farther from the truth. Notice 1Peter 5:6-7: "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." Whatever your problems may be, God the Father and Christ His Son can help you bear them. Therefore, submit unto God and trade your worries for the easy yoke and light burden of Jesus (Matt. 11:28-30).**

**To Our Visitors:**

Welcome to our assemblies. If you have been with us before, we are glad and thankful to see you again. Thank you for joining us as we offer worship and praise to our God in heaven and build up one another in the most holy faith. May God bless us all as we assemble together today.

## news and notes:

- Your prayers are requested for the following members: Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Jim Stubblefield, and Bessie Short. Also remember Donella Jones' sister Velma and Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry.
- The Creekview church assembles every Wednesday night at 7PM for Bible study. Why not come and receive the same blessings of fellowship and instruction that you receive on Sunday? We would love to see you this week!

**52 Week Reading Plan: Week 45**

Sunday- 1Peter 1-3  
Monday - Deuteronomy 10-12  
Tuesday - 2Chronicles 33-36  
Wednesday - Psalms 128-130  
Thursday - Ecclesiastes 5-6  
Friday - Haggai  
Saturday - Acts 13-14

**Gospel Meetings:**

Eastside (Bowling Green) - Nov. 16, song service

## Predestination, God's Foreknowledge, and Man's Free Will

Beyond any shadow of doubt, the Bible teaches that man has free will. Every commandment implies that man has a choice of whether he will keep it. Every record of God's efforts to persuade men shows that each one could choose whether to act on God's word. Every time men were called to choose between God and anything else (Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; 1Ki. 18:21; John 6:67-69), it was an appeal for them to exercise their free will.

So then, some will ask how the free will of man can be reconciled with the concept of predestination. In other words, how can man choose his path if God has already chosen it for him? This question reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of what the Bible actually teaches about predestination. In fact, the Bible does not teach that God has already chosen every soul's destiny. Instead, it is the theology of John Calvin (Calvinism) that has spread a false belief that God has already decided the eternal destination of each individual so that no one's destination can be changed.

Let us understand what the Bible teaches about predestination instead of being deceived by Calvinism. In Ephesians 1:3-6, the Scriptures teach that "before the foundation of the world" God "chose us in Him" (i.e., He chose those "who are faithful in Christ Jesus," Eph. 1:1) for two particular objectives. Those two objectives are an existence that is "holy and blameless before Him" (v. 4; i.e., sanctification) and adoption as His children (with an inheritance, Eph. 1:11). Both of these objectives are achieved through faith in Christ (see Acts 26:18 regarding sanctification and Galatians 3:26 regarding adoption), which can be obtained by anyone through hearing the gospel (Rom. 10:17). Stating this simply, God predestined that He would sanctify and adopt everyone who becomes faithful in Christ. This means that anyone can become sanctified and adopted by God simply by being faithful in Christ Jesus. Nothing about this teaching conflicts with the free will of man.

Another passage concerning the subject of predestination is Romans 8:29-30. Read it here:

<sup>29</sup>For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup>and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

This passage teaches that God generically predestined that some souls would become like His Son so that Jesus would be "the firstborn of many brethren" (i.e., He would have many adopted brothers; see again Eph. 1:5).

God knew before time (foreknew) that He would adopt some souls in this way, but this does not mean that He chose each of those individual souls before they existed. He simply predestined and chose that He would save any individuals who would become conformed to the image of Jesus. Therefore, if anyone wishes to be adopted as a child of God, then he can obtain his wish by becoming like Christ.

Further insight into the subject of predestination and God's choosing of believers is found in 2Peter 1:4-11. By choosing to practice the qualities of faith, moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love (vv. 5-8), a believer can "make certain about [God's] calling and choosing" of him (v. 10). God's choice to save a believer from "the corruption that is in the world by lust" (v. 4) is affected by the believer's choice to "practice these things" (v. 10). God's choice of individuals is changeable and has not been predetermined. The choices made by each individual will determine whether he has indeed been called and chosen by God.

This settles the matter of predestination, but how can we reconcile the foreknowledge of God and the free will of man? If God knows how each person will choose before he makes a choice, then does that person really have a choice? Again, the premise of this question is a misunderstanding. God's word is unchangeable, and He knows that His purpose will be accomplished (Isa. 55:10-11). He knows the end from the beginning (Isa. 46:9-11) and has determined the final outcome of all things for eternity (1Cor. 15:20-28). He even ordained our days before we existed (Ps. 139:16), but this does not mean that He has planned every detail of our lives from conception until death. Within our ordained days, He allows us to make countless choices, the outcome of which determines how we shall be judged (2Cor. 5:10). God's knowledge of future outcomes does not prevent the exercise of our free will in the present.

Many people struggle with the matters of predestination, God's foreknowledge, and man's free will because of the confusion created by Calvinism. They know intuitively that Calvinism is wrong, for living teaches them that they make their own choices and are not being controlled by God against their own will. To avoid such confusion, let us reject Calvinism and embrace the teachings of God's word. The simple meaning of these matters in the Bible is that God has always had a plan to save believers in Jesus, so we should be confident that He will execute His plan and accomplish His purpose. Having this confidence, let us therefore be faithful to Him, obey the gospel of Jesus, and wait for the salvation that He has planned all along.

*Stacey E. Durham*