

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
John Fix

Scripture Reading:
David Bansemer
1Peter 2:1-5

Prayer:
Alex Bansemer

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
What Can You Do?
Lesson 11: You Can Grow

Closing Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Wednesday, November 6
Song Leader: Chevis Webb
Invitation: Kevin Hayes
Prayer: Ron Dixon

Lord's Supper Preparation
November: Baker
December: Fix

Change Sign Message:
November:
December:

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Andrew Durham

Scripture Reading:
Bailey Steger
1Corinthians 13:1-8

Prayer:
Bill Duryea

Lord's Supper:
Chris Huffines
Louis Long
Wayne Baker
Kirk Webb

Lesson:
Thom Steger

Title:
Song Service - Invitation

Announcements:
Jim Stubblefield

Closing Prayer:
Ron Hunt

Usher for This Week:
John Fix

creekview *BULLETIN*

Bible Preaching

Paul wrote that his preaching consisted of nothing more than "Christ Jesus and Him crucified" (1Cor. 2:1-2). Preaching in the Lord's church should carry this same sentiment, and so we offer only plain Bible preaching, "book, chapter, and verse."

To Our Visitors:
We hope that you find our services to be Scriptural in all things and edifying to your soul. Thank you for coming to be with us today, and may God bless you as you walk with Him.

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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

"I'm Offended"

In Matthew 15:1-9, some Pharisees and scribes asked Jesus why His disciples violated their traditions. Jesus answered with a question of His own, asking, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?" With this question, Jesus exposed His opponents' error, for they had elevated their self-made traditions above the commandments of God. He then connected them with the prophecy given in Isaiah 29:13, saying,

⁷"You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: ⁸'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me. ⁹But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.'"

Concerned about Jesus' answer, His disciples asked Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?" (Matt. 15:12). By this question, it seems that His disciples thought Jesus should not have answered His opponents as He did. Perhaps they thought it was unwise to offend men who had powerful influence among the Jews. Undaunted, Jesus did not retract His words or apologize for them. Instead, He said in Matthew 15:13-14,

¹³"Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

Like those disciples of Jesus, His modern disciples can also be overly concerned about offending hypocrites and sinners. This is especially true now because offensiveness has become one of the worst transgressions according to our society. Specifically, offensiveness in the name of Christ has become virtually intolerable. To this end, some politicians are proposing and enacting laws to curb the freedoms of speech and religion for the sake of preventing offense. The new standard is becoming freedom *from* religion rather than freedom *of* religion. Under this standard, the gospel can be characterized as hate speech, and the plain reading of certain passages of the Bible can be considered offensive. For these reasons, Christians can become timid about speaking the truth for fear that they might cause offense.

Rather than shrinking back from the word of God, let us follow the lead of our Savior. Jesus did not soften His message because others were offended, but rather He boldly spoke the truth without fear. He did not speak for the sake of being offensive, but He also did not shy away from speaking the truth when it was offensive to sinners. Following His example, we also should not compromise, dilute, or distort the gospel when sinners claim offense. In fact,

we should expect sinners to be offended, for the Scripture says that Jesus is "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense" and that unbelievers "stumble because they are disobedient to the word" (1Pet. 2:8).

In truth, the modern standard of offensiveness is more about control than it is about being genuinely offended. If sinners can silence Christians by claiming to be offended, then they gain control of everything Christians say. As Christians, we must not concede to this tactic. Jesus did not relent when the Pharisees were offended by His words. The apostles did not cease from preaching the gospel when the Sanhedrin commanded them to stop speaking in the name of Jesus (Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29). When false teachers tried to turn the Galatian Christians against Paul, he asked, "So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?" (Gal. 4:16). Like all of these, let us also respond to current cries of "I'm offended" by standing firm on the unchangeable, saving message of God's word. We must not allow the "blind guides of the blind" to become our guides as well.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

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news & notes

- The 11AM service will be devoted mostly to singing today.
- Your prayers are requested for the following members: Barbara Atkins, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, and Kay Lanius. Also remember Wayne Wright, Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry, and the Fix's son-in-law Jody Baize.

reading plan

Sunday- James 4-5
Monday - Deuteronomy 7-9
Tuesday - 2Chronicles 29-32
Wednesday - Psalms 125-127
Thursday - Ecclesiastes 3-4
Friday - Zephaniah
Saturday - Acts 11-12

meetings

Skyview – Nov. 3-6
Millersville – Nov. 10-19
Eastside – Nov. 15*

*song service