

DUTY ROSTER FOR OCTOBER 21, 2018

Usher for This Week: Thom Steger

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Chevis Webb

Scripture Reading:

Wayne Baker

Scripture:

Psalms 33:6-9

Prayer:

Ron Dixon

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

The Creator

Closing Prayer:

Kirk Webb

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Jim Barton

Scripture Reading:

Chris Huffines

Scripture:

Proverbs 6:16-19

Prayer:

Al Cotten

Lord's Supper:

David Bansemer

Ron Hunt

Gary Sells

Chevis Webb

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

Hating Evil

Announcements:

John Fix

Closing Prayer:

Kevin Hayes

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Song Leader: John Fix

Invitation: David Bansemer

Closing Prayer: Andrew Durham

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

October: Thweatt
November: Hayes

SIGN MESSAGE CHANGING

October: Durham
November: Webb

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

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

OCTOBER 21, 2018

Volume 33 Number 42

Rock of Ages

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes, and forever" (Heb. 13:8). It is a great comfort to know that our Lord never changes, that His word is never revised, and that His promises are never revoked. Let us therefore build our lives upon Christ and be as a wise man who built his house upon the rock (Matt. 7:24-27).

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:

- Reminder: A current directory of members is available on our website. If any of your information has changed, please notify Stacey Durham.
- Please remember the following members in your prayers: Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Jim Stubblefield, and Bessie Short. Also remember Donella Jones' sister and Peggy Bailey's daughter.
- Members at Creekview are feeding on God's word when we assemble on Wednesday nights. If you are not attending, then consider what you are missing. Midweek Bible study is a great way to renew your mind (Rom. 12:1-2). Don't miss it!

52 Week Reading Plan: Week 42

Sunday- Hebrews 11-13
Monday - Deuteronomy 1-3
Tuesday - 2Chronicles 21-27
Wednesday - Psalms 120-121
Thursday - Proverbs 31
Friday - Nahum
Saturday - Acts 7-8

Gospel Meetings:

Memorial Blvd. (Springfield) - Oct. 21-26
Walton Chapel (Lafayette) - Oct. 21-26
Skyview (White House) - Oct. 25-28
Northfield Blvd. (Murfreesboro) - Oct. 26-27, young adult studies
Eastside (Bowling Green) - Nov. 3, ladies' day

Righteousness Exalts a Nation

Well, it is election season again (isn't it always?), and that means politicians and pundits are breathlessly begging for every vote they can get. If you watch the cable news channels, then you have seen the round-the-clock election coverage that overshadows every other story. Even the non-election news stories usually have some connection to a candidate or a party. Invariably, someone will say about each election, "This is the most important election in our nation's history." Judging by the endless obsession with elections, you might even think they are the most important things in the world!

Of course, elections matter. As President Obama famously said, "Elections have consequences." We have to live with the laws, policies, and judgments that arise from the people we elect. When Israel elected to have a king, God warned them of the consequences, and they suffered these consequences throughout the history of the kingdom (1Sam. 8:10-22). Our own nation now suffers the consequences of elections from generations ago.

However, the overt emphasis on elections is badly mistaken and misplaced. The idea is implied that elections are all that matter and that if we can just elect the right people, then all of our problems will be solved. That idea is preposterous. When has this ever happened? The answer is never.

What matters more than elections is the character of the nation itself. Nothing states this more clearly or succinctly than Proverbs 14:34:

Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

It is just that simple. When the people and the government of a nation do right, the nation is lifted up. When the people and the government of a nation practice, sanction, endorse, and celebrate sin, the nation is brought down in self-inflicted disgrace. Consider Psalm 9:15-17:

¹⁵The nations have sunk down in the pit which they have made; in the net which they hid, their own foot has been caught. ¹⁶The LORD has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared. ¹⁷The wicked will return to Sheol, even all the nations who forget God.

The principle of Proverbs 14:34 means that one election cannot move a nation from a state of disgrace to a state of exaltation. Regardless of who is elected, a nation that is awash in sin is still disgraceful, and it

will continue to suffer the consequences of turning away from God as long as it continues in sin. Notice what God said about Judah in Jeremiah 15:1:

Then the LORD said to me, "Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My heart would not be with this people; send them away from My presence and let them go!"

For us, this means that even if Moses or Samuel were living and could be elected as president of the United States, neither could save the nation from ruin if the people have rejected God.

So then, the greater emphasis should be placed upon turning the hearts of our nation's citizens to God. This is a much harder task than simply voting in an election. People do not like change, and sinners rarely wish to give up their sin. Even so, the process of turning to God is not as difficult as some may perceive. Consider Moses' words to Israel in Deuteronomy 10:12-13:

¹²"Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³and to keep the LORD's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?"

Of course, the United States is not Israel and has no special standing before God. However, the general requirements and expectations of God for any nation are not complicated or burdensome. The difficulty lies in convincing people to repent of their sins. To do that, Christians must preach and exemplify the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Yes, elections matter, but we have a greater opportunity to effect real change in the people around us. Our first responsibility is to seek God's righteousness ourselves (Matt. 6:33), and then we can reflect the light of God to lead others to Him (Matt. 5:14-16). We can also teach others about Jesus Christ and His gospel so that they may become righteous through faith in Him (Rom. 4:5; 5:1). We should also take advantage of our access to God to pray "on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity" (1Tim. 2:1-2). If all Christians in our nation will do these things, then we will not only affect the course of our nation for the better, but more importantly we will lead souls to salvation.

Stacey E. Durham