

DUTY ROSTER FOR OCTOBER 7, 2018

Usher for This Week: Doug Thweatt

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

John Fix

Scripture Reading:

David Bansemer

Scripture:

1Peter 1:3-9

Prayer:

Ron Hunt

Lesson:

Stacey Durham

A Higher Standard

Lesson 10 - A Better Joy

Closing Prayer:

Wayne Baker

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

David Bansemer

Scripture Reading:

Andrew Durham

Scripture:

Psalm 16:7-11

Prayer:

Stacey Durham

Lord's Supper:

Johnny Murray

Bill Duryea

Louis Long

Thom Steger

Lesson:

Ron Dixon

Song Service - Invitation

Announcements:

John Fix

Closing Prayer:

Chris Huffines

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Song Leader: Alex Bansemer

Invitation: Andrew Durham

Closing Prayer: Stacey 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:

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

CREEKVIEW BULLETIN

OCTOBER 7, 2018

Volume 33 Number 40

The Household of God

Paul wrote to Timothy, "I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth" (1Tim. 3:15). The "household of God" means the family of God, and the family of God is the church. Those who are in the church of God have God as their Father and one another as brothers and sisters. What a joy and privilege it is to assemble with God's family and worship our Father in heaven!

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:

- The 11AM service today will be mostly devoted to singing with the theme of joy. This is a great opportunity for you to express your joy in the Lord.
- The following members are in need of your prayers: Jim & Kay Cook, Billy & Wilma Deering, Mary Ham, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Jim Stubblefield, and Bessie Short. Also remember Donella Jones' sister.
- 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 40

Sunday- Hebrews 5-7
Monday - Numbers 29-32
Tuesday - 2Chronicles 11-15
Wednesday - Psalms 117-118
Thursday - Proverbs 28
Friday - Jonah
Saturday - Acts 3-4

Gospel Meetings:

Eastside (Bowling Green) - Oct. 19, song service
Northfield Blvd. (Murfreesboro) - Oct. 26-27, young adult studies
Eastside (Bowling Green) - Nov. 3, ladies' day

Hard Hearted

In Bible history, no individual demonstrated hardness of heart more than Pharaoh during the time of Israel's exodus. Even before Moses returned to Egypt from Midian, God had already said of Pharaoh, "I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go" (Ex. 4:21). Time after time, Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh on behalf of God, showing him miraculous signs and pronouncing plagues upon Egypt. Nevertheless, Pharaoh's heart remained hard and became harder just as God had said.

Pharaoh's example shows us what a hard heart does. He stubbornly refused to listen to the word of God, which means that he would not obey God's commandments. The message of God was very simple: "Let My people go" (Ex. 5:1). Although he understood the message, Pharaoh rejected the authority of God to command him, saying in Exodus 5:2, "Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and besides, I will not let Israel go." Even when God showed His power and authority by the signs and plagues sent upon Egypt, Pharaoh still refused to obey Him.

So then, a hard heart is a mind that stubbornly refuses to comply with God's demands. It is a self-imposed attitude that prevents a person from grasping the truth about God that would compel him to submit. For individuals like Pharaoh, hard-heartedness arises from pride and a desire to assert power. For others, hard-heartedness can be the product of self-indulgence or self-righteousness, such as the people of Israel. Notice God's word concerning them in Zechariah 7:11-12:

¹¹"But they refused to pay attention and turned a stubborn shoulder and stopped their ears from hearing. ¹²They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts."

In some cases, hard-heartedness is not the product of intentional opposition to God. Instead, it is the result of an unwillingness to lay aside the teachings of men and all preconceptions that hinder the truth. For example, after Jesus' own disciples witnessed His miracle of feeding five thousand men with five loaves of bread and two fish, the Scripture says that "they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened" (Mark 6:52). Their hard hearts prevented them from seeing exactly who Jesus was despite the abundant evidence.

In a sense, hard-heartedness is a product of God's word. This does not mean that God wishes for His word to harden the hearts of people, for He "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1Tim. 2:4). However, His word often has a hardening effect on the hearts of those who are intentionally opposed to Him or are given to the wisdom of men. In a passage cited previously, the Scripture says that God hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and He did the same for the people in Israel (Isa. 6:10). This does not indicate that He made individuals incapable of understanding or responding to His word, but rather He gave them an uncompromising message that they chose not to obey. In this way, God hardened the heart of Pharaoh while Pharaoh also hardened his own heart (Ex. 8:32). Likewise, God hardened the hearts of Israel while they also hardened their own hearts. Notice Psalm 81:11-12:

¹¹"But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. ¹²So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices."

Those who are hard-hearted have set their course for disaster. The examples of Pharaoh and the rebellious nation of Israel stand as warnings for those who stubbornly refuse to comply with the word of God. Moreover, God's word itself explicitly declares the end of those who are hard-hearted in passages such as these:

- Proverbs 28:14 - How blessed is the man who fears always, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.
- Proverbs 29:1 - A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.
- Romans 2:5-6 - ⁵But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who will render to each person according to his deeds.

Therefore, let us set aside pride, self-indulgence, self-righteousness, the wisdom of men, and anything else that renders our hearts dull and insensitive to God's word. God has given us the choice to hear and obey His word or to stubbornly refuse it. He has also told us the consequences of those choices. Are our hearts tender and open to His word, or are they too hard to submit? Give your heart to God today!

Stacey E. Durham