

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Scripture Reading:

Prayer:

Lesson:

Title:

Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, April 29

Song Leader:

Invitation:

Prayer:

Lord's Supper Preparation

April: Stubblefield

May: Duryea

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Scripture Reading:

Prayer:

Lord's Supper:

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
*By the Grace of God I Am
What I Am*

Announcements:

Closing Prayer:

Usher for This Week:

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Whether We Come Together or Remain Absent

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (Phil. 1:27).

Sermon Online:

A sermon will be presented live online Sunday morning at 11AM on the Facebook page of Stacey Durham. The live stream will begin with a song about five minutes early.

APRIL

26

2020

VOL. 35
NUM. 17



SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAYS:

WORSHIP: 9:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY: 10:00 AM
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS:

BIBLE STUDY: 7:00 PM

Guarding Against Spiritual Viruses

The coronavirus shutdown has been all about mitigation. The measures taken have been intended to slow and prevent the spread of the virus. These measures have included stay-at-home orders, travel bans, social distancing, diligent hand-washing practices, and the wearing of gloves and facemasks. The extent of these efforts to stall the spread of a virus has never been seen before in the history of the world.

If we have made such extreme efforts to protect our physical bodies from becoming infected with the coronavirus, then what shall we do to protect ourselves and the entire body of Christ from becoming infected with a spiritual virus? A spiritual virus is anything that spiritually corrupts Christians individually or the church collectively. It could be a false teaching that leads to false beliefs and practices, or it could be a lustful sin that would cause us to forsake the Lord and His ways. Surely such dangers demand that we make efforts to protect ourselves and the church.

A virus is an effective figure for spiritual dangers like error and sin because of the way a virus works. A virus enters the body undetected and then attacks the body's cells. A single virus particle uses the enzymes within a healthy cell to multiply itself. It and its offspring then leave the cell weakened or even dead, and they go on to attack more cells in the same way. Eventually, that single virus particle can affect thousands of cells, making the entire body sick and possibly even causing death. Like a virus, spiritual dangers prey on unguarded Christians, leave their souls weakened and estranged from God, and then go on to do the same to others. Just as "a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough" (Gal. 5:9), a spiritual virus also threatens to infect an entire church. Indeed, a whole church can potentially be brought down by one unchecked false teaching or one overlooked sin.

To protect against spiritual viruses, we must be alert and aware of the threats against us. Peter wrote, "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1Pet. 5:9). It is the devil who can cause our minds to "be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ" (2Cor. 11:3). His influence comes through others or even from within ourselves when we are tempted or deceived, so we must beware. For example, Paul told the elders of the Ephesian church to "be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock" because "savage wolves will come in among you" and even "from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them" (Acts 20:28-30). Without proper awareness and protection, such attacks threaten to ruin souls.

Thankfully, we have the "full armor of God" to protect us against spiritual viruses, which are the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:10-17). Of course, we have to put it on and use it for this armor to be effective. When used properly, it creates an immunity that no virus of Satan can penetrate. Individually, Christians must use this armor to defend themselves against temptation and deceit. Collectively, Christians must arm themselves and work together to prevent corruption from entering the church, and elders must be faithful and strong as overseers to defend the flock from sin and error.

Therefore, let us take our defense against spiritual threats seriously. If we go to great extremes to protect ourselves and others from mortal illnesses like COVID, how much more should we do to protect our immortal souls from the attacks of Satan? Let us then diligently guard that which God values so much that He gave His only begotten Son for it. Lord willing and with His help, we will get through this soon.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

Ron Dixon
John Fix
Stacey Durham

DEACONS:

David Bansemer
Kevin Hayes
Thom Steger
Doug Thweatt

PREACHER & EDITOR:

Stacey Durham

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news & notes

- None of our members have been affected by the coronavirus as far as we know.
- Please pray for the following members: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Louis Long, and Noah White. Also pray for Jody Baize, Katy Hunt, Alta Lanius, Wayne Wright, and Dot Long's sister Melissa.
- Also remember those who work in healthcare: Kelly Hayes, Becky Hunt, and Brianna Owen.

reading plan

Sunday - 2Corinthians 1-3
Monday - Exodus 13-16
Tuesday - 2Samuel 1-4
Wednesday - Psalms 48-50
Thursday - Job 33-34
Friday - Jeremiah 22-26
Saturday - Mark 13-14

meetings

None to announce