

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Andrew Durham

Scripture Reading:
Bailey Steger
Colossians 2:6-12

Prayer:
Doug Thweatt

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Nothing Less Than Jesus

Closing Prayer:
Nate Durham

Wednesday, December 16

Song Leader:
Andrew Durham

Invitation:
David Lanius

Prayer:
John Fix

Lord's Supper Preparation
December: Fix
January: Durham

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Alex Bansemer

Scripture Reading:
Al Cotten
1Peter 4:7-16

Prayer:
Wayne Baker

Lord's Supper:
Thom Steger
Ron Hunt

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Love Above All

Announcements:
Kevin Hayes

Closing Prayer:
Bill Duryea

Usher for This Week:
Louis Long

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Do Not Be Captured

The world is filled with vain philosophies and doctrines of men that are competing for your heart and soul. Make sure no one takes you captive by them (Col. 2:8). Do not let anyone steal your faith. Stand firm on the Rock of Jesus Christ and His blessed word (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. Thank you taking part in our blessed worship of God.

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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

Entitlement

Did you ever notice how the parable of the prodigal son begins? It starts with entitlement. Notice the Lord's words in Luke 15:11-12:

¹¹And He said, "A man had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them."

The younger son's sense of entitlement started him down a path of waste, excess, and foolishness. That path ended in a disaster that was overcome only because of the father's love and mercy.

That story is not uncommon for those who receive privileges by entitlement. Feeling entitled tends to erase any sense of gratitude, responsibility, accountability, or obligation. It also leads to waste and ruin. For this reason, a large fortune is often squandered by the heirs of the one who earned it.

Of course, a person does not have to be heir to a great fortune to have a sense of entitlement. Some people feel entitled to virtually everything, including food, clothing, housing, healthcare, and internet access. For such a person, the only qualification he deems necessary for entitlement is "I need" or "I want."

For those who have a false sense of entitlement, the outcome is never good. Because they feel entitled, they are not compelled to work for their living, which leaves them impoverished and in need (Prov. 6:9-11; 13:4; 2Thess. 3:10). Even when they do receive blessings undeservedly, they are ungrateful and discontented. Their false expectations leave them disappointed and bitter. They also become envious of others and can even turn to crimes such as theft and murder (Jas. 4:1-3).

On the other hand, there is a true sense of entitlement that is earned or lawfully obtained. For example, a worker is worthy of his wages (Luke 10:7; 1Thess. 5:18; Jas. 5:4). His wages are not a gift or a favor, but rather they are deserved (Matt. 20:13; Rom. 4:4; Jas. 5:4). Likewise, a buyer is entitled to the full measure of whatever he has purchased (Amos 8:4-6). An inheritance is also a legitimate and good entitlement (Prov. 13:22), but it is gifted rather than earned. In this case, the entitlement is a credit to the giver and not the receiver. Therefore, an heir must be careful how he receives his inheritance. He must not allow a sense of entitlement to lead him into the mistakes of the prodigal son.

In terms of our standing before God, none of us are entitled. This does not mean that we should not expect His blessings, but rather we should view every blessing as a gift of His grace. "Every good thing given and every

perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow" (Jas. 1:17). God blesses us by His own will because He loves us, but we are in no position to make demands. He owes us nothing, and none of us may boast before Him (Rom. 3:27; 1Cor. 1:29; Eph. 2:9).

Actually, there is one entitlement we have before God, and it is the one we have earned, "for the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23a). As sinners, we are entitled to death, but God has given believers in Jesus a different title: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26). As children of God, we are also heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17; 1Pet. 1:3-4). Far different from our entitlement to death, "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23b). Let us never feel as if we deserve this inheritance, but rather let us treasure it as the precious gift that it is. Any entitlement we have to eternal life is only because of God's marvelous grace in Christ, and all glory should be given to Him.

Stacey E. Durham

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news & notes

- The surgery for Donella Jones' daughter, Mishae Neville, went well on Thursday. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.
- Please pray that the cause of Laurie Polchek's health problems might be discovered and corrected.
- Please keep the following members in your prayers: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, John and Christy Fix, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Kirk and Jenny Webb. Also remember Ralph Anderson, Jody Baize, Wayne Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

reading plan

Sunday - 2John
Monday - Deut. 26-28
Tuesday - Nehemiah 10-13
Wednesday - Ps. 143-145
Thursday - Song of Sol. 3-4
Friday - Revelation 7-11
Saturday - Acts 23-24

meetings

None to announce