

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Bailey Steger

Scripture Reading:
Chris Huffines
Philippians 4:4-9

Prayer:
Wayne Baker

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Thinking Like Jesus
Lesson 12: Thinking About
Jesus

Closing Prayer:
Louis Long

Wednesday, December 9

Song Leader:
Nate Durham

Invitation:
Chris Huffines

Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Lord's Supper Preparation
December: Durham
January:

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Thom Steger

Scripture Reading:
Bill Duryea
Acts 2:42-47

Prayer:
Alex Bansemer

Lord's Supper:
John Fix
Ron Dixon

Lesson:
David Bansemer

Title:
Song Service - Invitation

Announcements:
Kevin Hayes

Closing Prayer:
Jim Stubblefield

Usher for This Week:
Doug Thweatt

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Salvation is Nearer

In Romans 13:11, the apostle Paul wrote, "Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed." We do not know when the Lord will come nor when we will see death, but we can always be ready for Him.

To Our Visitors

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

DECEMBER

6

2020

VOL. 35
NUM. 49



SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAYS:

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

WEDNESDAYS:

BIBLE STUDY: 7:00 PM

Dogmatism

“Dogmatic” is not a new pet grooming tool as seen on TV. Dogmatic means assertive of an idea as if it were authoritative and unchallengeable. Someone who is dogmatic in his opinions is usually closed-minded toward other opinions and disinterested in explaining his own. He expects his word to be accepted without question or challenge.

Dogma is not necessarily bad. This word is borrowed and transliterated directly from the Greek language and found in the New Testament. In two places, it is used to describe the decrees of Caesar (Luke 2:1; Acts 17:7). In two other places, it refers to the ordinances of the Law of Moses (Eph. 2:15; Col. 2:14). In Acts 16:4, it describes decisions made by the apostles and elders at Jerusalem. From these contexts, we can understand a biblical definition of dogma as a decree issued from a recognized authority.

The trouble with dogma occurs when it has no legitimate authority to support it. Legitimate authorities include persons who are correctly endowed with authority, valid sources of authority, and sound logic, reason, and evidence. When such authority is lacking, nothing should be accepted as dogma.

Even when there is apparent authority, Christians must be careful about accepting dogma. We know that Christ has all authority, and only His word is absolute (Matt. 28:18; 1Tim. 6:15). Therefore, all other persons are subject to scrutiny. For example, civil rulers issue many policies and orders, but their words should never be taken as unquestionable. Instead, they should be evaluated in light of the Scriptures (Acts 5:29; 17:11) as well as the other sources of authority that empower them (state and federal constitutions, laws, etc.). Likewise, scientists and academics present many findings and opinions, but they also are subject to examination. Their word is not to be accepted solely on the basis of their credentials, but rather they must give reason and evidence in order to be believed.

Often policies, orders, and opinions are asserted in a dogmatic way because they are weak and flawed. Because they have no legitimate authority or sound reasoning to support them, they are indefensible, and their proponents are not interested in a discussion. Instead, they resort to dogmatism and its associated tactics, which include pulling rank (“because I said so”), claiming consensus (“everyone agrees with me”), ad hominem attacks (“you are a bigot if you disagree”), and fearmongering (“there will be suffering if you disagree”). By such tactics, we should easily recognize dogmatism when we see it.

The church is not immune to dogmatism. Throughout history, many false doctrines and heresies have taken root among believers because no one resisted the men who dogmatically asserted them. In the first century, Diotrephes was one such man who rejected the words of Christ’s apostles and took control of a local church (3John 9-10). When such men succeed, it leads to apostasy, and God’s people are led astray.

Therefore, let us be on guard against dogmatism from others and within ourselves. We should not accept assertions from others without good authority and reason, and we should not make assertions that we cannot well defend and support. This may all seem so fundamental that it should go without saying, yet countless many ideas are now accepted without authority or reason in this age of social media and disinformation. So then, let us “examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil” (1Thess 5:21-22).

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

Ron Dixon
John Fix
Stacey Durham

DEACONS:

David Bansemer
Kevin Hayes
Thom Steger
Doug Thweatt

PREACHER & EDITOR:

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news & notes

- Kirk Webb is now at home, and Jenny is set to go home on Monday. Your continued prayers are appreciated.
- Donella Jones’ daughter, Mishae Neville, is scheduled for brain surgery on Thursday. Please pray for her and the family.
- Also pray for the following: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, John and Christy Fix, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Laurie Polchek. Also remember Ralph Anderson, Jody Baize, Wayne Wright, Dot Long’s sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings’ brother.

reading plan

Sunday - 1John 4-5
Monday – Deut. 23-25
Tuesday - Nehemiah 5-9
Wednesday – Ps. 140-142
Thursday - Song of Sol. 1-2
Friday - Revelation 1-6
Saturday - Acts 21-22

meetings

None to announce