

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
John Fix

Scripture Reading:
Brandon Ayers
Romans 5:6-11

Prayer:
Bailey Steger

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
*Reconciliation and Salvation
Part 1 – Reconciled by
Christ's Death*

Closing Prayer:
Louis Long

Wednesday, January 27

Song Leader:
Brandon Ayers

Invitation:
Andrew Durham

Prayer:
Jim Barton

Lord's Supper Preparation
January: Durham
February: Long

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Thom Steger

Scripture Reading:
Ron Hunt
Romans 5:6-11

Prayer:
Bill Duryea

Lord's Supper:
Jim Stubblefield
Al Cotten

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
*Reconciliation and Salvation
Part 2 – Saved by Christ's
Life*

Announcements:
Jim Stubblefield

Closing Prayer:
Kevin Hayes

Usher for This Week:
Louis Long

Creekview *BULLETIN*

More Than Conquerors

Romans 8:37 says that “we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us” (ASV). It would have been enough to just barely overcome tribulations in the world, but in Christ we are doing much better. In Him, we are overwhelmingly conquering this sinful world. Praise God for His wonderful strength!

To Our Visitors

We are very thankful that you have come to be with us as we approach God in worship today. All true worshipers of God are always welcome here.

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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

Blaming Christians

Christians are badly flawed people. A big part of being a Christian is admitting this. We come to Jesus because we are sinners who have failed badly and need His help. Even after coming to Him, we continue to need His help and the help of our fellow Christians to overcome our sins (Jas. 5:16, 19-20; 1John 1:8-10). In Jesus, we are made complete (Col. 2:10), but we are far from flawless.

Knowing our flaws, it may be tempting to blame ourselves and our fellow Christians for the world's rejection of Christ. After all, if we were not so flawed, then we would be better channels of Christ's flawless character and message. If we would just do a better job of showing the world who Jesus really is, then surely everyone would love Him, right?

Although we have many faults, it is not our fault that the world does not love the Lord Jesus. In fact, the world would hate Jesus even if all of His followers were absolutely flawless. Jesus Himself is indeed flawless, and the world still hates Him. In fact, the more we become like Him, the more the world will hate us, too. Jesus indicates this in John 15:18-19:

¹⁸"If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."

Jesus tells us exactly why the world hates Him, and it is not because His followers are bad people. He says, "[The world] hates Me because I testify of it, that its deeds are evil" (John 7:7). Furthermore, He says in John 3:19-20,

¹⁹"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."

Despite this explanation from Jesus, Christians sometimes accept blame for the world's rejection of Him. Rather than believing what Jesus said, we believe the sinners who say they do not follow Him only because Christians are too harsh, judgmental, legalistic, hypocritical, old fashioned, and narrow-minded. We then make changes in hope that these sinners will change their minds about Jesus.

This approach is not helpful and does not lead anyone to the Lord. Although it is fashionable these days to find excuses for the failures of others, we cannot help sinners obtain the godly sorrow that leads to repentance if we excuse their sin by blaming others, including ourselves. Sinners need to know that

they alone are accountable for their own sins and that Jesus is the only Savior who can help them. This is true regardless of the flaws and failures of anyone else, including Christians.

This does not mean that Christians should not try to improve. Sometimes there is truth in the charges that sinners make against Christians, so let us work to correct those flaws. Knowing that sinners will use our faults to excuse themselves, let us adorn the gospel well "so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us" (Tit. 2:8).

Even so, we will never be flawlessly perfect in this world. Thankfully, the flawless perfection of Christians is not necessary for sinners to love Jesus. What is necessary is for sinners to stop blaming others, accept responsibility for their own sins, and change their own ways. As for those of us who are already in Christ, we cannot make anyone love Jesus, but we cannot keep anyone from loving Him either. All we can do is point the way to Him.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

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news & notes

- Lord willing, Aaron Bain will be here to preach both sermons for us next Sunday.
- Be mindful of all members who are taking precautions due to COVID-19. Let us be sure to stay in contact with everyone.
- Please pray for the following members: Barbara Atkins, Jeri Baker, Shirley Buchanon, Kay Cook, Bill Duryea, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Laurie Polchek, and Kirk Webb. Also remember Jody Baize, Velda Cross, Mishae Nevils, Wayne Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

reading plan

Sunday - Romans 57-8
Monday - Genesis 12-15
Tuesday - Joshua 16-20
Wednesday - Psalms 9-11
Thursday - Job 7-8
Friday - Isaiah 18-22
Saturday - Matthew 8-10

meetings

None to announce