

# WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

**9:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**  
Nate Durham

**Scripture Reading:**  
Bailey Steger  
Amos 7:10-15

**Prayer:**  
Ron Dixon

**Lesson:**  
Stacey Durham

**Title:**  
*The Country Preacher*

**Closing Prayer:**  
John Fix

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**Wednesday, March 24**

**Song Leader:**  
Andrew Durham

**Invitation:**  
John Fix

**Prayer:**  
Nate Durham

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**Lord's Supper Preparation**  
March: Wright/Huffines  
April: Duryea

**11:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**  
Jim Barton

**Scripture Reading:**  
Andrew Durham  
Matthew 28:18-20

**Prayer:**  
Jim Stubblefield

**Lord's Supper:**  
Alex Bansemer  
David Bansemer

**Lesson:**  
Stacey Durham

**Title:**  
*All in the Great Commission*

**Announcements:**  
Ron Dixon

**Closing Prayer:**  
Thom Steger

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**Usher for This Week:**  
Doug Thweatt

# Creekview *BULLETIN*

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## To Him Be The Glory

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Ephesians 3:21 says, "To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." On this first day of the week, the Lord's church at Creekview assembles to bring glory to our God who well deserves it. Let us embrace this opportunity to worship Him.

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## To Our Visitors

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Thank you for joining our worship service. Our intentions are to offer reverent and humble worship that pleases God through Jesus Christ. We are glad that you have come to join us today.

MARCH

21

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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

## Gentle Correction Versus Severe Reproof

“Answer a fool as his folly deserves, that he not be wise in his own eyes” (Prov. 26:5). As this proverb implies, not all fools are the same. Likewise, not all foolishness is the same. Foolishness is always answerable by the word of God, but each variety of fool and folly deserves a different level of response. As servants of God, it is our responsibility to discern an appropriate answer for each situation.

As a rule, Christians should approach others with gentleness. We are told to defend our faith “with gentleness and reverence” toward everyone who asks us (1Pet. 3:15). Our mandate for engaging the opponents of God is given in 2Timothy 2:24-26:

<sup>24</sup>The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup>with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup>and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Our purpose in “correcting those who are in opposition” is not to embarrass them or exalt ourselves. It is to save them from the devil, and that is best done with gentleness.

However, there is an exception to gentleness. The folly of some fools deserves a stern rebuke. For example, Paul gave the following instructions to Titus, who was on the island of Crete, in Titus 1:10-13:

<sup>10</sup>For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, <sup>11</sup>who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain. <sup>12</sup>One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, “Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons.” <sup>13</sup>This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith...

As Paul indicated, the Cretans were notoriously dishonest and immoral. Their speech and conduct warranted severity. This response was especially appropriate for the Jews of Crete, who had become fully immersed in this wicked culture.

How then shall Christians determine when to use gentleness and when to use severity? Making this judgment will not always be easy, but the guidance of the Scriptures will help. As stated previously, the rule is to use gentleness. So then, our concern is when to apply the exception. One factor is how the opponent of God is affecting others. In the Cretan example, the “empty talkers and

deceivers” were “upsetting whole families” by their teachings and leading them astray. Such strife and divisiveness cannot be handled with gentleness. It must be stopped immediately by bold opposition and severe rebuke. Another factor is repetition. If an offender has been approached gently but has refused to repent, then severity is merited. “Reject a factious man after a first and second warning, knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned” (Tit. 3:10-11). See also Matthew 18:15-17 and 2Corinthians 13:1-3.

Sadly, it seems that a time for severe reproof has come. Modern Cretans have obtained many positions of influence in our culture. Indeed, “folly is set in many exalted places” (Eccl. 10:6). Their empty talk and deceit has disrupted families by promoting such foolishness that was unthinkable just a short time ago. While many of the individuals who have been affected by this should be approached with gentleness, those who are responsible for the godless lies deserve to be severely rebuked. Do we have the moral courage and the spiritual strength to be severe when necessary?

*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

- Pat Ridings has had trouble with heart palpitations and will undergo further testing. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Sarah Brown will have a medical procedure on Monday. Please pray that all goes well.
- Ron Dixon will have cataract surgery on Wednesday. Please pray for him.
- Also remember the following members in your prayers: Barbara Atkins, Jeri Baker, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Shirley Smith. Also remember Jody Baize, Mishae Nevils, Wayne Wright, and Dot Long’s sister Melissa.

## reading plan

Sunday - 1Corinthians 7-8  
Monday - Genesis 44-47  
Tuesday - 1Samuel 6-10  
Wednesday - Psalms 33-35  
Thursday - Job 23-24  
Friday - Isaiah 62-66  
Saturday - Mark 3-4

## meetings

West End (Bowling Green) –  
Mar. 21-24