

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:

Scripture Reading:

Prayer:

Lesson:

Title:

Closing Prayer:

Wednesday, April 1

Song Leader:

Invitation:

Prayer:

Lord's Supper Preparation

March: Fix

April: Stubblefield

11:00 AM

Song Leader:

Scripture Reading:

Prayer:

Lord's Supper:

Lesson:
Ron Hunt

Title:
The Mindset of a Soldier

Announcements:

Closing Prayer:

Usher for This Week:

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Suspended Assemblies

Our assemblies have been temporarily suspended in compliance with the efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus. In the meantime, the elders encourage all members to worship at home. Lord willing and with His help, we will all be together again soon.

Sermon Online:

A sermon will be presented live online Sunday morning at 11AM on the Facebook page of Stacey Durham. This is a public presentation, so anyone can see it without a Facebook account.

MARCH

29

2020

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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

Did We Make the Right Decision?

Suspending the assemblies of the local church due to the coronavirus was not an easy decision for the elders. Prior to this, I never considered that we would have to do such a thing. However, the government has advised citizens to stay at home and abstain from social gatherings exceeding ten people, so the decision was made. Now that it is done, it leaves us to ponder whether it was the right choice.

This matter is currently being debated by some Christians on social media. Brethren have taken stands on both sides of the issue, and some of the opinions are very strong. I pray that it does not become a cause of strife and division. That would be the last thing we need right now or ever.

I have read many of the arguments, and I am still persuaded by the Scriptures that we have indeed made the correct decision. Of course, the Scriptures teach us by instruction and the precedent of approved examples that members of the local church should assemble together on the first day of the week (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1Cor. 16:2; Heb. 10:25). This is our regular practice and always has been. So, what in Scripture makes it acceptable to suspend our assemblies?

One answer I have not seen in the arguments I read comes by principles found in Matthew 12:1-8 and Mark 2:23-28. These passages record an occasion on which the disciples of Jesus were hungry and picked heads of grain to eat. However, the day on which they did so was the Sabbath, so the Pharisees accused them of breaking the Law of Moses. Jesus defended His disciples by citing two cases in which the Law of Moses was technically broken, but a higher law prevailed. In the first one, David and his men were hungry and ate the showbread from the tabernacle, which only the priests were permitted to eat under the Law (1Sam. 21:1-6; ref. Ex. 25:23-30; Lev. 24:5-9). In the second, the priests of God worked on every Sabbath, which was generally prohibited by the Law. In both cases, the Law was seemingly violated, but those persons who did so were justified and innocent before God.

To be clear, Christians are not under the Law of Moses, and we are not bound to keep the Sabbath (Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:24; Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 8:5, 13). Even so, the principles Jesus taught in this event still apply. He said to the Pharisees, "But if you had known what this means, 'I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent" (Matt. 12:7; ref. Hos. 6:6). He also said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27-28).

These principles apply to the decision to suspend the church's assemblies

because this decision was made in compassion and mercy for people. Compassion compels us to act in ways that spare others from suffering and preserve life. The Lord, who instructs us to assemble on the first day of the week, to offer sacrifices of praise with our lips, and to do good and share (Heb. 13:15-16), has told us what He desires more: "I desire compassion, and not a sacrifice." Moreover, the Lord's day, like the Sabbath, was made for man and not the other way around.

There is much more to be considered than just this answer, but this answer gives me confidence that we made the right decision. Compassion is not an excuse for disobedience, but these two motivations do not compete with one another when we are seeking first the will of the Lord. Instead, they harmonize and lead us to righteousness, for He commands us to be compassionate. May His will be done. Lord willing and with His help, we will get through this soon.

Stacey E. Durham

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news & notes

- As of this writing, all of our members are well and have no needs.
- Due to the COVID-19 virus, all services are cancelled for the rest of March. Wednesday services are cancelled until May.
- Please continue to 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.

reading plan

Sunday - 1Corinthians 9-10
Monday - Genesis 48-50
Tuesday - 1Samuel 11-15
Wednesday - Psalms 36-38
Thursday - Job 25-26
Friday - Jeremiah 1-6
Saturday - Mark 5-6

meetings

None to announce