

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
John Fix

Scripture Reading:
Chevis Webb
Genesis 2:18-25

Prayer:
Ron Hunt

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
The Definition of Marriage

Closing Prayer:
Andrew Durham

Wednesday, March 11

Song Leader:
Chevis Webb

Invitation:
Chris Huffines

Prayer:
Doug Thweatt

Lord's Supper Preparation
March: Fix
April: Stubblefield

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Alex Bansemer

Scripture Reading:
David Bansemer
Matthew 19:3-9

Prayer:
Al Cotten

Lord's Supper:
Bill Duryea
Ron Dixon
Ron Hunt
Wayne Baker

Lesson:
Stacey Durham

Title:
Marriage Unchanged

Announcements:
Jim Stubblefield

Closing Prayer:
Max Lawrence

Usher for This Week:
Doug Thweatt

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Make a Joyful Noise

There is no joy like that of a soul that has been redeemed from sin. Christians, express this joy to your God today as we worship Him together. "Make a joyful noise unto God" (Psalm 66:1) for the bounty of blessings that He has poured upon us through Jesus Christ.

To Our Visitors:

We at Creekview rejoice that you have come our way today. We welcome you into our assemblies and pray that God will bless us together as we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

MARCH

8

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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

Death Bed Confessions

A death bed confession happens when a person confesses the name of Jesus shortly before he dies. Generally, such a person is incapacitated and confined to a bed due to a terminal condition. He is someone who either never confessed faith in Jesus before or else confessed Jesus but lived in a way that was contrary to the Lord's will. In either case, the one who makes a death bed confession is dealing with the inescapable reality of his own mortality and the prospect of standing in Judgment unprepared. In his desperation, his only hope is to invoke the name of Jesus in an appeal to God.

Do death bed confessions work? Are they effective in securing forgiveness of sins, salvation from wrath, and hope of eternal life? These questions have to be answered carefully because the answers are often misconstrued or even intentionally misused. Therefore, answers should be given and received cautiously.

First, let it be acknowledged that death bed confessions are not God's plan for our salvation. Instead, the New Testament teaches us by instructions and examples what we must do to be saved from God's wrath against sinners. If a sinner is to be saved, then he must hear and believe the news that the Son of God, Jesus Christ, came in the flesh and lived as a man without sin, died on a cross as a sacrifice for all of our sins, was raised from the dead, ascended to heaven where He was crowned as our King, and is coming again to judge the world (Isa. 53:1-12; Acts 2:22-36; 17:30-31; 1Cor. 15:1-4; 2Cor. 5:10; Phil. 2:4-11). Those who believe in Jesus must confess their belief verbally (Rom. 10:8-11), repent of their sins (2Cor. 7:10), and be baptized in the name of Christ for forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-38; 8:36-38; 16:30-34; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; 1Pet. 3:21). They must then live by faith in Christ for the duration of their lives (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:23; Rev. 2:10).

This plan is universal, and no exceptions are given in the New Testament. Every example of salvation in the Bible following the Lord's ascension into heaven follows this pattern. Since the close of the New Testament, this message has continued to resound throughout the world, bringing salvation to all who obey it. Nothing has amended or nullified it.

So then, what hope does this message offer for those who are terminally ill and are confined to their beds? Is it too late for them to be saved? These are honest questions for those who are genuinely in such situations. There is no direct instruction or example of the New Testament to answer these questions, so they can only be answered in principle. The essence of the gospel is John 3:16, which says, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have

eternal life." We know that God is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4) and that mercy triumphs over judgment (Jas. 2:13). These are the principles upon which sinners place their hope, and this is no different for those who cannot "get up and be baptized" (Acts 22:16). It is the Lord Jesus who will make the final judgment of all souls, so each sinner must do what he is able to do and then wait for the Lord.

Those who wish to find an exception to the gospel plan of salvation based on death bed confessions are mistaken. There is no exception for those who disobeyed, dishonest, and disingenuous. Counting on the opportunity for a death bed confession is wrong and foolish. Assuming that anyone can be saved by intentionally putting off the Lord until the last possible moment is also wrong and foolish. To do so is to gamble with one's soul. Therefore, heed the message of salvation with eagerness and urgency, for "now is the day of salvation" (2Cor. 6:2). Do not wait until you are at death's door.

Stacey E. Durham

ELDERS:

Ron Dixon
John Fix
Stacey Durham

DEACONS:

David Bansemer
Kevin Hayes
Thom Steger
Doug Thweatt

PREACHER & EDITOR:

Stacey Durham

CREEKVIEW CHURCH OF CHRIST

930 Long Hollow Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066
615-452-8212

creekviewchurchofchrist.com

news & notes

- Thom and Jenny Steger are still in Arizona with their adoptive child. Hopefully, they will come home this week. Please keep them in your prayers.
- The Clemens family are finally all united in California and are doing well.
- Please pray for the following members: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, Louis Long, and Noah White. Also remember Jody Baize, Alta Lanius, Wayne Wright, and Peggy Bailey's daughter Sherry.

reading plan

Sunday - 1Corinthians 3-4
Monday - Genesis 36-39
Tuesday - Ruth
Wednesday - Psalms 27-29
Thursday - Job 19-20
Friday - Isaiah 51-55
Saturday - Matthew 26-28

meetings

Eastside (Bowling Green) –
Mar. 15-18
Eastside (Bowling Green) –
Mar. 20*

*song service