

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Thom Steger

Scripture Reading:
Chevis Webb
Matthew 11:27-30

Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Lesson:
Stacey Durham
Jesus Will Give You Rest

Closing Prayer:
Nate Durham

Wednesday, October 28

Song Leader:
Bailey Steger

Invitation:
Chris Huffines

Prayer:
John Fix

Lord's Supper Preparation
October: Thweatt
November:

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Alex Bansemer

Scripture Reading:
Bailey Steger
Matthew 5:43-48

Prayer:
Al Cotten

Lord's Supper:
Kevin Hayes
Chris Huffines

Lesson:
Stacey Durham
*What More Are You Doing
Than Others?*

Announcements:
John Fix

Closing Prayer:
Ron Dixon

Usher for This Week:
David Bansemer

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Always Do These

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1Thess. 5:16-18) All of us can do these things every day and especially today in the assembly of God's church.

To Our Visitors

We are so glad that you decided to attend our services at Creekview. Our hope for you is that you are strengthened in spirit by being part of the worship here today. Moreover, we hope that God is glorified. Thank you for coming, and please come again.

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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

Render to God the Things That Are God's

The Pharisees set a trap for Jesus when they asked Him, "Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?" If He said, "Yes," then they would use His answer against Him to draw the disapproval of the Jews. If He said, "No," then they would accuse Him of insurrection against the Romans. Jesus knew their intentions, and He adeptly disarmed them by His answer. He called for a coin such as would be used to pay the tax and asked them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" When they said, "Caesar's," He said, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." Being amazed at His answer, they walked away. This exchange between the Pharisees and Jesus is recorded in Matthew 22:15-22, Mark 12:13-17, and Luke 20:20-26.

The Lord's answer teaches the necessity of paying taxes to civil authorities (see also Rom. 13:6-7), but there is a much more essential lesson to be learned. It is that we must render to God the things that are God's. There is more to this mandate than may meet the eye, so let us consider it carefully.

To keep the Lord's commandment, we need to recognize the things that are God's. God Himself tells us, "The world is Mine, and all it contains" (Ps. 50:12). He owns everything, so whatever we possess has been given to us by Him. In this sense, we owe Him everything.

However, God has given us His blessings for our use and has designated what those uses should be. Part of our material wealth is for Caesar, i.e., the civil authorities. Part of it is to be shared with others (Eph. 4:28). Part is to support the work of the church (1Cor. 9:7-14; 2Cor. 9:1-12). Part is for our own enjoyment (1Tim. 4:3-5; 6:17). When we use God's blessings according to His will, we are in this sense rendering to Him by obeying Him.

This gets to the heart of the matter. Rendering to God the things that are God's is not merely a matter of devoting a portion of our material wealth to Him. It is about giving God what He desires, which is our hearts.

Think again about the Lord's response to the Pharisees. He asked whose likeness and inscription was on the coin. The answer was, "Caesar's," so the coin was to be rendered to Caesar. So then, whose likeness and inscription are on us? We are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and His law is written in our hearts (Rom. 2:15; Heb. 8:10). Therefore, we belong to God and should render ourselves to Him.

If we render ourselves to God, then we cannot render ourselves to

anyone else. We are not Caesar's, so we should not entrust our lives to civil authorities for sustenance or indoctrination. The same goes for our children, for they bear the image of God and should not be surrendered to Caesar. We likewise do not belong to pop culture, Hollywood, social media, or the news media, so we should not render ourselves or our children to any of these for the shaping of our beliefs and values.

Only in Christ Jesus can we truly render to God the things that are God's. It is through Jesus that God has bought us with the price of the Lord's blood (1Cor. 6:20; 1Pet. 1:18-19), and it is in Him that we surrender ourselves when we become obedient from the heart to His teachings (Rom. 6:17). Therefore, let us render to God our own souls in faithful obedience so that "whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:8).

Stacey E. Durham

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news & notes

- Brandon Ayers has joined our membership at Creekview. Welcome him into the congregation.
- The surgery for Donella Jones' daughter, Mishae Neville, is scheduled for December 10. Please pray for her health and comfort.
- Please continue to pray for Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanisus, and Laurie Polchek. Also pray for Ralph Anderson, Jody Baize, Wayne Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

reading plan

Sunday - James 1-3
Monday - Deuteronomy 4-6
Tuesday - 2Chronicles 25-28
Wednesday - Ps. 122-124
Thursday - Ecclesiastes 1-2
Friday - Habakkuk
Saturday - Acts 9-10

meetings

None to announce