

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
Alex Bansemer

Scripture Reading:
Thom Steger
Psalm 105:1-4

Prayer:
David Bansemer

Lesson:
Stacey Durham
*Living to Seek God and His
Direction*

Closing Prayer:
Andrew Durham

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
David Bansemer

Scripture Reading:
Louis Long
Acts 5:1-6

Prayer:
Bill Duryea

Lord's Supper:
Thom Steger
Bailey Steger

Lesson:
Stacey Durham
Liars

Announcements:
Doug Thweatt

Closing Prayer:
Chris Huffines

Wednesday, September 16

Song Leader:
Jim Barton

Invitation:
Thom Steger

Prayer:
Chevis Webb

Lord's Supper Preparation
September: Steger
October: Thweatt

Usher for This Week:
Doug Thweatt

Creekview *BULLETIN*

To Dwell in God's House

Psalm 84:4 says, "How blessed are those who dwell in Your house! They are ever praising You." Indeed, we are so blessed to dwell in "the household of God, which is the church of the living God" (1Tim. 3:15). Let us therefore praise our blessed God today and always.

To Our Visitors

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's day. It is good to have you with us today as we worship our God in heaven. Please come again whenever you have the opportunity.

SEPTEMBER

13

2020

VOL. 35
NUM. 37



SERVICE TIMES

SUNDAYS:

WORSHIP: 9:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY: 10:00 AM
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS:

BIBLE STUDY: 7:00 PM

Opening Our Eyes to Pedophilia

Pedophilia is an adult's sexual attraction toward children. I do not want to talk about it, and you do not want to hear about it. However, those who wish to promote and normalize pedophilia are succeeding in part because good people are too squeamish to even acknowledge that it is happening. So then, we must pull our heads out of the sand and be honest about what is going on.

First, let us establish what is abundantly obvious, which is that pedophilia is a damnable sin. It falls in the broad category of fornication, which is condemned in copious passages of Scripture. However, pedophilia adds many layers of additional offenses that make it one of the most heinous sins imaginable. It is a degrading passion and an unnatural function similar to that which is described in Romans 1:26-27 but even worse. This passage describes homosexuality presumably among consenting adults, but pedophilia involves an adult who preys upon a child. Therefore, it is a sin that targets the most innocent, pure, vulnerable, and weak people among us. It is nothing less than the sexual assault of a child, and any child who is victimized in this way will carry physical, mental, and emotional scars for life.

Next, let us acknowledge that the sin of pedophilia is happening right here in our own country. It is difficult to measure just how prevalent this crime is because many cases are unreported to authorities. According to the Crimes Against Children Research Center, one in five girls is a victim of child sexual abuse. That ratio is one in twenty for boys. Most victims of pedophilia fall prey to someone they already know, but pedophile predators also lurk in many corners of the internet. There they lure children into traps to obtain their names and addresses. Predators also prey upon runaways who are desperate and homeless. Many of these victims are trafficked into prostitution, where they are marketed to pedophiles. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that between 240,000 and 325,000 children are at risk of sexual exploitation each year.

As these things are happening, a movement is advancing to normalize pedophilia in our nation. This movement has been propagated by worldwide organizations such as the United Nations and its agencies (UNICEF, UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). These organizations have developed "comprehensive sexuality education" (CSE) in order to sexualize children as soon as they begin school or even sooner. This program teaches children all kinds of perverted sexual behaviors, but it also normalizes the idea that society should view children as sexual beings. These things have already been forced onto many countries in Africa, and now CSE has been introduced in the United States. School boards across the country are considering the implementation of CSE right now. Some have already done so.

The movement is also making inroads through other channels. In 2014, the New York Times published an op-ed piece entitled "Pedophilia: A Disorder, Not a

Crime." As the title suggests, the author argues that pedophilia is an inborn sexual orientation that should not be punished. Just last week, California legislators passed a bill to reduce the penalties against homosexuals who have committed sexual crimes against minors. Even the language that is used to describe pedophiles is being softened so that they are now often referred to as "minor-attracted persons" or "MAPs." Efforts are also being made to add pedophilia into the broad category of the now socially accepted perversions known as LGBTQ.

I understand if you want to cover your eyes, plug your ears, and pretend that this is not happening. Doing so may spare you from the displeasure of thinking about it, but it will not help to stop the normalization of pedophilia. The fact is that this is just the latest front in a war between those who want to preserve and protect traditional, moral, and Biblical values and those who wish to destroy them. We cannot win this war by ignoring the problems. We have to be informed in order to fight back. Therefore, let us expose these disgraceful deeds of darkness (Eph. 5:11-13).

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

- Ron Hunt will be preaching both sermons next Sunday. It is always a great blessing to have one of our own members present the gospel.
- Please continue to pray for the following members: Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, Kay Lanius, and Laurie Polchek. Also pray for Jody Baize, Sandlyn Fultz, Tommy Lanius, Wayne and Beverley Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

reading plan

Sunday- Titus
Monday - Numbers 17-20
Tuesday - 1Chronicles 25-29
Wednesday - Ps. 108-110
Thursday - Proverbs 23-24
Friday - Amos 1-4
Saturday - John 16-18

meetings

Lakeview (Hendersonville) -
Sept. 20-23
East Cheatham (Joelton) -
Sept. 20-23