

# WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

**9:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**  
Chevis Webb

**Scripture Reading:**  
Andrew Durham  
1Thessalonians 5:1-11

**Prayer:**  
Ron Dixon

**Lesson:**  
Ron Hunt

**Closing Prayer:**  
Chris Huffines

**11:00 AM**

**Song Leader:**  
Jim Barton

**Scripture Reading:**  
Nate Durham  
1Timothy 2:1-8

**Prayer:**  
Wayne Baker

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

**Lesson:**  
Ron Hunt

**Announcements:**  
Doug Thweatt

**Closing Prayer:**  
Kevin Hayes

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**Wednesday, September 23**

**Song Leader:**  
Jim Barton

**Invitation:**  
Ron Dixon

**Prayer:**  
Andrew Durham

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**Lord's Supper Preparation**  
**September:** Steger  
**October:** Thweatt

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**Usher for This Week:**  
Louis Long

# Creekview *BULLETIN*

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## Give God Your Heart

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It is relatively easy to give time, money, and effort, but it can be difficult to surrender your heart to God. Perhaps this is why He wants your heart most of all, for if you give Him your heart, then the rest of you will follow. Therefore, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matt. 22:37).

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## To Our Visitors

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We are so pleased to have you in our midst today as we assemble to worship the Lord. Our hope for you is that you will be drawn closer to God by having been in this assembly today.

SEPTEMBER

20

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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

## Don't Argue Like a Loser

Scripture gives Christians a mandate to defend their beliefs. In 1Peter 3:15, God's word commands, "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." Whether you are sitting with a neighbor at the dining room table or standing before a judge in a courtroom, you need to have good answers for your faith if you are a Christian.

To make a good defense, we need to employ good tactics. Even if our beliefs are true and correct, we can discredit ourselves and do harm to the cause of Christ by arguing in the wrong ways. This does not mean that the truth will be disproved if we argue poorly, but rather it is that we may hinder others from believing the truth. So then, our tactics should be strong, sound, and Biblical.

Poor arguments and tactics are employed by those whose beliefs are false. They use such strategies because they cannot defend their beliefs with sound logic, reason, and evidence. When distraction, logical fallacies, lies, and other such tactics are used, it is indicative of a bad, wrong, and losing position. Because our faith in Christ is intellectually sound, logical, and evidential, we have no need to resort to the tactics of losers.

Losing tactics and arguments were used by many opponents of God as recorded in Scripture. Consider a few examples:

- The most obvious of these is simply being untruthful. Those who accused Jesus before Pilate lied about Him, saying that He misled the nation and forbid the people to pay taxes (Luke 23:2). They would not speak truthfully because the truth was in His favor and opposed to themselves.
- Shouting down an opponent is a losing tactic that proves nothing. In Ephesus, a huge mob of people shouted, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" for two hours (Acts 19:34). They did this because they had no evidence to refute Paul's assertion that Artemis was not a god at all.
- Raging may intimidate an opponent, but it does nothing to offer proof of a position. When Stephen identified the Jewish leaders with those who had opposed God throughout history, they seized him in a rage and stoned him to death (Acts 7:54-60). They silenced Stephen, but they could not disprove his charges against them. In fact, they verified his words.
- Appealing to credentials or class status does not prove the truth. The Pharisees did this when their officers refused to arrest Jesus and Nicodemus suggested that Jesus deserved a fair trial (John 7:47-52). Their only answers were that none of the Pharisees believed in Him, the crowds who followed Him were ignorant, and anyone from Galilee could not be a prophet. They were wrong on every point.

- Making *ad hominem* (Latin "to the person") attacks can damage an arguer but not his argument. When a man who had been healed of blindness by Jesus told Jewish leaders what happened, they accused him of being born entirely in sins and put him out of the synagogue (John 9:28-34). When Paul gave his testimony concerning Jesus before Agrippa and Festus, Festus accused him of being insane (Acts 26:24). In both cases, the false charges made against these men did nothing to disprove their words.

These are the kinds of arguments and tactics Christians should not be making. A sound defense of the gospel of Christ cannot be made in these ways nor does it need to be. We have abundant evidence and reasons for our faith in Jesus so that we do not need these tactics or others like them (majority opinion, consensus, red herring distractions, etc.). Those are the tactics and arguments of losers, but we are winners in Christ who should always employ the gospel's undefeatable strategy to defend our faith.

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

- Ron Hunt will be preaching both sermons today.
- The new quarter for children's classes begins in two weeks on Sunday, October 4.
- Your continued prayers are requested 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 Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

## reading plan

Sunday- Philemon  
Monday - Numbers 21-24  
Tuesday - 2Chronicles 1-5  
Wednesday - Ps. 111-113  
Thursday - Proverbs 25  
Friday - Amos 5-9  
Saturday - John 19-21

## meetings

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