

WORSHIP *SCHEDULE*

9:00 AM

Song Leader:
John Fix

Scripture Reading:
Chris Huffines
2Timothy 2:14-19

Prayer:
Chevis Webb

Lesson:
Stacey Durham
Social Media

Closing Prayer:
David Bansemer

11:00 AM

Song Leader:
Thom Steger

Scripture Reading:
Al Cotten
Hebrews 12:1-3

Prayer:
Nate Durham

Lord's Supper:
Ron Hunt
Kevin Hayes

Lesson:
Stacey Durham
In the Cloud

Announcements:
Doug Thweatt

Closing Prayer:
Kirk Webb

Wednesday, September 30

Song Leader:
Bailey Steger

Invitation:
Andrew Durham

Prayer:
Nate Durham

Lord's Supper Preparation
September: Steger
October: Thweatt

Usher for This Week:
Doug Thweatt

Creekview *BULLETIN*

Get Motivated

Is it ever difficult to get motivated to worship on the Lord's day, to do the Lord's work, or to study the word of the Lord? It shouldn't be, for all we need to do is to think about our Lord suffering on the cross for our sins. If that is not enough to get motivated, then nothing ever will be.

To Our Visitors

Thank you for joining our worship service today. You are welcomed by the Creekview church of Christ to assemble with us every time we meet.

SEPTEMBER

27

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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

Religion and Marxism

What does Karl Marx have to do with modern practices of religion? The answer is far too much. Karl Marx was a nineteenth century German philosopher, economist, and atheist. His socioeconomic theory asserted that mankind's social problems were due to struggles between the ruling class who owned most things and the workers who provided labor. Marx viewed religion as a reaction of the working class to oppression. He believed that the working class had invented religion to give themselves hope amid their misery.

Marx' proposed solution to social problems was to dissolve the classes by abolishing private ownership and having all people work for a common purpose. He and another German, Friedrich Engels, authored the Communist Manifesto in 1848 as a presentation of their view and a call for communist revolutions around the world. As for religion, Marx believed that the implementation of communism would cause it to disappear because the material conditions that caused religion would be gone. Religion would then be replaced by naturalistic humanism in which man and nature would live in harmony.

Marx was wrong about everything, including religion. Every time societies have attempted to implement his solutions, the results have been disastrous. It is estimated that 100 million people have been put to death or have died as a direct result of communism in the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Cuba. For the most part, religion did not disappear in these nations but was banned because it opposed the objectives of their communist governments.

Nevertheless, the influence of Karl Marx remains strong throughout the world and within many churches that claim to follow Christ. Many followers in these churches are not aware that they are being taught Marxism because they do not know what it is. Their leaders have deceived them by twisting the gospel of Christ to conform to Marxism. They attempt to change the gospel's focus from spiritual salvation from sin to worldly liberation from oppression.

To avoid being deceived, Christians need to be aware of Marxist teachings and the contrast between them and the teachings of Christ. Religion corrupted by Marxism emphasizes worldly results and collective solutions. It is the so-called liberation theology that presents salvation as deliverance from oppression in the world. Contrary to that, Jesus "rescues us from the wrath to come" (1Thess. 1:10). Specifically, individual believers in Jesus seek to be saved from the wrath of God that will come against those who have sinned against Him (Rom. 1:18; 5:9; 2Thess. 1:6-9). Freedom in Jesus is not about liberation from worldly oppression, but rather it is freedom from the spiritual slavery of sin (John 8:31-36).

It is also necessary to keep a proper perspective on areas where Marxism appears to share common ground with the gospel. Marxism is founded on a professed concern for oppressed classes, and the gospel is concerned with

persons who are burdened with hardships (Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27). However, the motivations, solutions, and outcomes of Marxism versus those of the gospel are radically different and incompatible. Marxism is opposed to God and considers His worship as an obstacle to be removed, whereas Christians seek to do good because of God and view their primary mission as the eternal salvation of lost souls through Jesus (Luke 19:10; Rom. 1:16-17).

If Marxism continues to gain influence in churches, then they will become unrecognizable in terms of the New Testament. This transformation is already apparent as many churches have become focused on social programs rather than evangelism. The shift has been made away from "the food which endures to eternal life" to "the food which perishes" (John 6:27). Their main goal has become solving the social problems among men rather than reconciling man to God through Jesus (Eph. 2:11-22). How sad it is that so many churches are now following the philosophy of an atheist rather than the blessed gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Stacey E. Durham

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news & notes

- Kay Lanius continues to struggle with pain and many health problems. Your continued prayers for her and Kim are appreciated.
- The new quarter for children's classes begins next Sunday, October 4.
- Please continue to pray for Barbara Atkins, Shirley Buchanan, Kay Cook, Donella Jones, and Laurie Polchek. Also pray for Ralph and Penny Anderson, Jody Baize, Sandlyn Fultz, Tommy Lanius, Wayne Wright, Dot Long's sister Melissa, and Pat Ridings' brother.

reading plan

Sunday- Hebrews 1-4
Monday - Numbers 25-28
Tuesday - 2Chronicles 6-10
Wednesday - Ps. 114-116
Thursday - Proverbs 26-27
Friday - Obadian
Saturday - Acts 1-2

meetings

None to announce