

## SCHEDULE OF ASSEMBLIES

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Sunday morning worship (Bible study) .....   | 9:30 AM  |
| Sunday morning worship (Preaching) .....     | 10:30 AM |
| Sunday afternoon worship (Preaching).....    | 4:00 PM  |
| Wednesday evening worship (Bible Study)..... | 7:00 PM  |

## NEWS AND NOTES

**SCHEDULE:** The schedule for May is posted on the bulletin board so the men can see what their responsibilities are for the month.

**TRAVELING:** Richard and Beth Hammock are away for a few days.

**SICK AND SHUT-INS:** Donna Criswell is caring for her aunt, Nell Barrett whose condition prevents Donna from being at some services. Donna's brother is doing some better. Telford Hamm's brother, Lee, is doing well living with Joe Hamm and family. Telford's sister is doing better after a procedure on her back. Also, remember his brother-in-law. Nancy Summerford and her husband both had covid and Nancy is helping care for her mother who has Alzheimer's. She is hoping to be able to be back at services soon. Virgie Waddle is in the nursing home in Golden room 2 and doing fairly well but unable to walk. She might or might not remember you. Her sister-in-law, Jean Malone, is there also. Regina Hamm's mother is doing better. George Hutto is at home recovering well from surgery. He will have another six weeks of chemo. Kevin Poston's brain tumor is stage four cancer. His doctor said the tumor had shrunk some, which was great news. Now plans are being made for a course of treatment going forward. Raymond requested we continue to pray for Kevin. Gerald Ricketts' wife, Michele, is doing much better in her recovery from her heart attack. Jack Elliott's nephew Tim Mauldin is in the hospital in Birmingham still recovering from Covid.

**WEEKLY BIBLE READING:** This week's reading is **Rom 5 - 8**.

**TEACHING EFFORTS:** A new issue of the **EASTSIDE EXAMINER**, was inserted in the **Red Bay News** in April. Copies of the new issue are on the table in the foyer for those who do not receive a paper. These may also be used to give to a friend or neighbor. When depleted, more can be printed. There is an ad in the paper once a month offering a free Bible correspondence course. DVD copies of past TV programs are available. The radio program continues on 95.5 FM at 10 AM each Sunday. Please pray that these efforts will reach people interested in studying God's word.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS / SINGINGS:** Gospel meetings at Piney Grove May 2 - 5 with Kenny Moorner, 7pm Mon. - Wed as well as Needmore (Haleyville) May 2 - 4 with Bill Hall. Mon - Tues 7pm. Bruce Tooley will be speaking at 5 points this afternoon at 2. If you know of meetings or singings in the area, please tell the one making announcements.

## POINTS TO PONDER

- It is wise to seek wisdom; it is foolish to imagine you have attained it.

# THE EASTSIDE REMINDER

2Pet 1:12-15

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## BEGINNING VOLUME FIVE

Last week I made some remarks about closing volume four of this publication. Today we begin volume five with great news. The Griffin family: J. D., Sabrina, and little Anniston, have let it be known that they want to be known as a part of this congregation. I am sure they will be an asset to the work here. Since we came here a little over four years ago, there have been some changes. Some have gone on to their eternal reward, some moved away, and some have had to go into a nursing home. As a result of these changes, our little directory is quite out of date. Some have asked when a **new directory** would be available. So, I guess since I did the other one, I will get to work on a new one. A list of names, addresses and phone numbers are posted on the bulletin board for any corrections or additions in order to have the most current information to put into a new directory. So, please help by checking your information for any corrections or additions. Also, any suggestions will gladly be accepted and considered.

**Editor's Note:** The article on the inside, to some degree, deals with politics as well as some social issues. However, I believe the author makes some valid points that we as Christians need to think about and consider because our society is pushing hard against God and His will, suggesting that whatever happens is the fault of someone else and that does away with personal accountability

## **CRITICAL THEORY**

By Stacey Durham

Chances are that you have never heard of Critical Theory or that you only heard of it recently. It is time for all Christians to become familiar with Critical Theory because it is affecting almost everything in America today. The Lord expects us to "discern the signs of the times" (Matt. 16:3), and this is one of those signs.

Critical Theory is a philosophy that criticizes and blames society and culture for all social problems. It suggests that problems such as poverty and crime exist because people are trapped in circumstances imposed on them by society. It seeks to solve all such problems by redistributing power and wealth from those who have them to others who do not. This results in the destruction of existing social structures and the creation of new ones.

Critical Theory also classifies people as either oppressors or oppressed persons. These classifications are made collectively rather than individually. So then, an individual is deemed to be an oppressor not because he has oppressed someone else but because he belongs to a group that is considered as oppressive. For example, Critical Race Theory (the racial version of Critical Theory) classifies people with white skin as oppressors. Therefore, any white person is an oppressor even if he has not personally oppressed anyone.

With this thumbnail sketch, the impact of Critical Theory on current events is evident. All social problems in America are being blamed on America's culture, heritage, and history. Every time an individual does something wrong, his offense is framed in terms of collective social circumstances. If he is a member of an oppressive class, then his crime is seen as evidence of his class' collective guilt. If he is a member of an oppressed class, then his crime is due to the oppression against his class. Because the existing structures of society are blamed for what this individual has done, the reaction is to destroy those structures. Thus, there is rioting, looting, destruction of public and private property, violence, and calls for defunding police.

Christians must recognize that Critical Theory and its application are opposed to the most basic principles of the word of God. Foremost, social problems and all other problems are the products of sin. Any philosophy that fails to acknowledge this cannot arrive at the proper solution, which of course is Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23). Moreover, God holds individuals accountable for what they do, and He does not accuse them or excuse them based on an association with anyone else. Notice Ezekiel 18:20: "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself."

The Lord will judge each person "according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2Cor. 5:10), and He advises us to do the same. He said, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24), and "Each tree is known by its own fruit" (Luke 6:44).

Christians should also recognize the damage that is being caused by the application of Critical Theory. The collective solutions that are being proposed and implemented will not bring blessings to Americans. God governs the world by the basic rule of reaping and sowing (Gal. 6:7) and does not reward those who will not abide by it (2Thess. 3:10). If Americans reject this rule by taking away fruit of one person's labor and giving it to another, then we institutionalize theft. If Americans adopt a policy of partiality and privilege for certain classes of people, then we embrace injustice (Ex. 23:3, 6; Lev. 19:15). If Americans tear down social structures such as civil government and marriage, which God has designed for our good (Gen. 2:18, 24; Rom. 13:1-7), then we destroy ourselves.

Therefore, understand Critical Theory as the fallacious philosophy that it is. It promises equality, freedom, and justice, but it delivers theft, injustice, and destruction. Those who are promoting this philosophy generally suffer from some combination of ignorance, deception, anger, greed, corruption, and madness. Let it not be so with us, but rather let us reject Critical Theory as yet another empty, dishonest philosophy of men (Col. 2:8).