

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 4 , 2012**

**Announcements for the Week**

Doug Davidson

**Morning Service**

**Prayer-** Roger German

**Song Leader-** Dan Buselmeier

**Communion:**

-- **Comments** – Andy Dobbs

-- **Assisting** – Jake Pope

-- **Assisting** – Alex Tucker

-- **Assisting** – Matt Fuller

-- **Assisting** – Todd Hudson

**Scripture** – Curran LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer-** David Fuller

**Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Andy Fuller

**Song Leader-** John Paul Baker

**Comments** – Andy Dobbs

**Serving** – Phillip Dorn

**Scripture** – Matt Fuller

**Closing Prayer-** David Johnson

**Wednesday Night – March 7, 2012**

**First Prayer** – Bill McIlvain

**Song Leader** – Roger German

**Invitation** – Marshall Irvin

**Closing Prayer** – David Johnson

**March 25 Sunday Night Lesson** – To Be Announced

**Upcoming Assignments:**

March	Communion	Cleaning
11	McIlvain	Davidson, Hudson, Goddard
18	Buselmeier	Dobbs, Bailey, Fuller, LaChappelle

**Notes:**

**The Ladies meet on the first and third Monday of the month. Next meeting is tomorrow, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM.**

**Gospel Meeting:** Daniel DeGarmo has confirmed that he will be coming here to speak for us May 13-16. The plan is to bring the entire family to be with us. We certainly should be looking forward to doing what we can to promote this event in our community.

**Work Day Postponed to next Saturday:** Many of you may be attending Josh & Haley's wedding in Alabama. Please see Doug or Andy Fuller and let them know they can depend on you to help that day.



*Schedule of Services*

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.**

This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.

Send any articles for the bulletin to [WMaxx@charter.net](mailto:WMaxx@charter.net)

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# Covington Church of Christ

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Elders: Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain

Deacons: John Paul Baker, Dan Buselmeier, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller,

Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

March 4, 2012

## Encounters With Angels

1. What angel helped Daniel understand the future?
2. Who was told by an angel that the angel's name was a secret?
3. According to Revelation, what angel fights against Satan?
4. What kind of angels did Isaiah see in the temple praising God?



## Giving Up Lent for Lent

By Steve Higginbotham

There's good reason why many Christians know very little about the "Lenten Season". Simply stated, the Bible nowhere speaks of a "Lenten Season", making this observance entirely an ordinance of man.



But, what's so wrong with observing a man-made religious memorial if it is rooted in such biblical principles as prayer, fasting, and alms-giving? Before answering that question, allow me to briefly explain what Lent is.



## [Giving Up Lent for Lent](#)

Continued

Lent is a period of 40 days of penance (which typically includes prayer, fasting, and alms-giving) in preparation for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40-day-long Lenten period. On this day, participants in Lent have ashes placed on their foreheads in an effort to replicate the Old Testament practice of putting ashes on one's head, which was an expression of repentance. During these 40 days of Lent, Ash Wednesday, and every Friday are to be days of fasting.

Back to the question, "What's so wrong with observing a man-made religious memorial if it is rooted in such biblical principles as prayer, fasting, and alms-giving?" Here's my answer: This question assumes that the man-made religious ordinance of Lent is biblically rooted.

Consider the practice of placing ashes on the forehead which takes place on Ash Wednesday. Yes, I know that during Old Testament times, people would fast and put ashes on their Head, expressing their repentance through this outward display (Daniel 9:3). Does the practice follow the teaching of Jesus on this matter? Does Jesus want us to make a display and publicize our fasting? Allow him to speak to these questions:

***“Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” (Matthew 6:16-18).***

Jesus commanded the exact opposite of what is practiced by the man-made observance of “Ash Wednesday”. According to the man-made memorial, practitioners publicize their fasting and “dirty” their faces with ashes. Jesus said to fast privately, and wash your face.



According to those who instituted Lent, fasting on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during the 40 days is a matter of obligation (Code of Canon Law, 1252). Grant it, authority to the conference of bishops to substitute another form of penance besides fasting (e.g. works of piety and charity) for

the Friday abstinence rule is given, but there is still a requirement involved (Code of Canon Law, 1253).

Jesus constantly shook up the religious establishment of his day by disregarding their man made ordinances (Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 3:1-6), and even exposing how they had actually elevated some of their traditions above the word of God (Mark 7:1-13). The gospel that Jesus taught was a gospel free from the heavy burdens of man-made ordinances (Matthew 23:4), and the legalism of man-made obligations (Colossians 2:20-22). Rather than submitting ourselves to man-made ordinances, the Lord, through the apostle Paul commanded us to ***“Stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).***

Christians should fast, pray, and give alms to the poor, but not under the auspices and strictures of “Lent,” a man-made ordinance that actually violates the teachings of Jesus. Instead, why not “give up Lent for Lent” and fast, pray, and give alms within the context and freedom of the liberty and the teachings of Jesus?



### Answers from page 1

1. Gabriel [Daniel 8:15-26; Daniel 9:21-27]
2. Samson's parents [Judges 13:17-18]
3. Michael [Revelation 12:7]
4. Seraphim [Isaiah 6:1-6]

