

SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 5 , 2012

Announcements for the Week Jason LaChappelle
Morning Service
Prayer- Roger German
Song Leader- Dan Buselmeier
Communion:
 -- **Comments** – Doug Davidson
 -- **Assisting** – Lawrence Pope
 -- **Assisting** – Mark Jones
 -- **Assisting** – Kevin Criswell
 -- **Assisting** – Todd Hudson
Scripture – Jake Pope
Closing Prayer- Jason LaChappelle
Evening Service
Prayer- Andy Fuller
Song Leader- John Paul Baker
Comments – Andy Dobbs
Serving – Alex Tucker
Scripture – Gary Goddard
Closing Prayer- David Johnson
Wednesday Night – August 8, 2012
First Prayer – Matt Fuller
Song Leader – John Paul Baker
Invitation – Andy Fuller
Closing Prayer – Jay Dobbs
August 26 Sunday Night Lesson –Dan Buselmeier

Upcoming Assignments:

August	Communion	Cleaning
12	Land	McIlvain, Ferrell, Criswell, Tucker
19	Goddard	Johnson, Baker, Stone, Land

Notes:

The Ladies meet on the first and third Monday of the month. Next meeting is tomorrow at 7PM.

Congregational Meeting this morning: We would encourage everyone who are members here to be at this meeting. We do not have these meetings every week and we will try to get all of the agenda items as quickly as possible. Don't think that a meeting such as this is only for THEM, it is for all of us. We all have a part to play. We ALL have that responsibility to be a minister for the Lord. Attending this meeting indicates to the elders you level of commitment.

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
 Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com

Covington Church of Christ

9441 Bypass, P.O. Box 768, Covington, GA 30015 --- [770] 787-1119
 Elders: Dan Buselmeier, Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain
 Deacons: John Paul Baker -- Doug Davidson -- Andy Fuller
 Marshall Irvin -- Jason LaChappelle

August 5, 2012

The Horns Of The Altar

1. Who told people to make peace with their brothers before they made a sacrifice on the altar?
2. Where in the Bible does the Lord tell Moses to tear down all the pagan altars he finds?
3. What priest led a movement in which the people tore down the Baal altars and killed Mattan, the priest of Baal?
4. What wicked king of Judah built altars for the worship of Baal and the stars?

Serving God & Baseball

By Edwin Crozier

I recently heard someone relate baseball to serving God and was shocked at the parallels.

In baseball, everyone who wants to score starts at the same place and has the same goal—Home plate. According to Matthew 25:14-30, we are all starting at the same place and all have the same goal. The one talent man certainly had less ability, but he still had the same starting place and goal. His job was to use what he was given to get around the bases and score just like the other two.

Serving God & Baseball

Continued

As you get better at baseball, the challenge to get around the bases is greater, the distances are farther, but you still start at home plate. Nobody gets so good at baseball that they are allowed to bat from first or second base. That is also true with serving God. In the Parable of the Talents mentioned above, the five talent man had more challenges and greater responsibility than the one talent man. But he was still starting at home plate. He had to do his best with what he was given.

In baseball, sometimes you hit home runs and sometimes you strike out. The same is true with serving God. Let's face it, on a very practical level, we all know we have had days when our guard was up, we overcame temptation and we knocked a home run. But we have had other days when we let our guard down, we indulged in selfishness and committed sins. I am not justifying that, I am simply saying we have all been there (1 John 1:8).

In baseball, even if your last at bat was a strike out, you are now getting a fresh start. When we strike out in God's service, He has said that we can confess our sins to Him and He will forgive us (1 John 1:9). We get a fresh start. We need to make the most of what is going on right now and not be bogged down with what we did in the past (Philippians 3:13).

In baseball, if you miss a base, you get called out. You don't get to skip bases and expect things to be alright. It is the same in serving God. He expressed this principle in Galatians 6:7. We reap what we sow. We cannot skip steps, disregarding God's patterns and expect everything to be alright.

In baseball, it typically takes teamwork to score. You may hit a homerun every once in a while. But usually the batter makes it to a base and someone else has to bat him in. In serving God, it is the same. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 explains the benefits of teamwork in life. We will score a lot more often when we rely on others to help us than when we are constantly trying to swing for the stands and make it on our own.

Perhaps there are other comparisons. But I know one great contrast. If we do really well at baseball, the most we can do is win the World Series. But when we serve God well, we gain heaven. Let's press for the goal (Philippians 3:14).



Hanging In There

By David Maxson

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. [Matthew 5:11-12]

Victory is made sweeter when suffering is involved. When a team goes through adversity during a game or during a season but wins the game or the championship because of their perseverance, it makes their accomplishment more meaningful. When a runner fights through the pain of an injury, the joy of crossing the finish line is so much greater. When an entrepreneur goes through several years of lean times, it makes success later all the more enjoyable.

In the last beatitude, Jesus says that persecution is an expected part of the life of a citizen of the kingdom (Matthew 5:10). He calls us "blessed" because it is not just something that makes our entrance into the kingdom sweeter; it is a necessary thing to be able to enter the kingdom of heaven.

What we must do is develop a laser like focus on the finish line. Suffering for the kingdom helps us do that in that it forces us to choose between the pleasures of this life and fellowship with God in the next. We cannot serve two masters. We will either seek comfort in this world and be made to compromise our faith because of persecution, or we will seek God's pleasure in the next life and be made more dedicated to God because of the fiery trials we experience.

May our trials only make us focus even more on the reward.



Answers from page 1

1. Jesus [Matthew 5:24]
2. The Book of Exodus [Exodus 34:13]
3. Jehoida [2 Kings 11:18]
4. Manasseh [2 Kings 21:3-5]

