

SERVICE SCHEDULE for November 25 , 2012

Announcements for the Week

Jason LaChappelle

Morning Service

Prayer- Philip Dorn

Song Leader- Marshall Irvin

Communion:

-- **Comments** – Andy Dobbs

-- **Assisting** – John Paul Baker

-- **Assisting** – Philip Dorn

-- **Assisting** – Mark Jones

-- **Assisting** – Andrew Johnson

Scripture – Gary Goddard

Closing Prayer- David Johnson

Evening Service

Prayer- John Paul Baker

Song Leader- Dan Buselmeier

Comments – Andy Fuller

Serving – Matt Fuller

Scripture – J Maxwell Irvin

Closing Prayer- Payden Frix

Wednesday Night – November 28, 2012

First Prayer – Philip Dorn

Song Leader – Dan Buselmeier

Invitation – Payden Frix

Closing Prayer – Open

November 25 Sunday Night – Prayer & Song Service

Upcoming Assignments:

November	Communion	Cleaning
Dec 2	Ferrell	Dorn, Gray, Irvin, Williams
Dec. 9	Dobbs	Foxworthy, German, McMullen, Jones, Stewart

Notes:

The Ladies meet on the first and third Monday of the month. The Next meeting is December 3rd at 7PM.

Family Bible Week Plans: The Elders are proposing that we undertake Family Bible Week 2013 earlier than this year. June 2 [Sunday] we will have 2 lessons designed to set the theme, and then we will be meeting Monday [June 3] through Friday [June 7]. **Our theme will be “On The Road”** On the Road to Calvary -- the road of sacrifice - To Emmaus - the road to recognizing the resurrected Lord - To Damascus - the road to a changed life. -- To Gaza - the road of evangelism. – To Jericho - the road of service.

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

November 25, 2012

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

by Alan Hitchen

One of the rich gems of Paul's prison epistles are his inspired prayers. In each book, the Spirit allows Paul to reveal those things he considers most important for their continued growth and development.

He first explains to them the foundation upon which his prayer for them is based. "*For this cause I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which (ye show) toward all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention (of you) in my prayers*" (1:15,16).

This congregation is full of trust in the Lord Jesus and love for the saints. Remember that Paul has not seen these brethren for quite some time. His last meeting was with the elders (Acts 20:17-38). But his two years in Caesarea, his journey to Rome, and some time in Roman prison have occurred since then. **So three years may have passed.** The key to this prayer is Paul's joy at hearing of their faithful service to Jesus and their love for the saints. All Christians who have reached this level of spiritual maturity ought to take note of the things he now expresses (vs. 16-17).

[Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians \(con't\)](#)

He first thanks God for what they are doing, and then in making mention of them in his prayers he sets forth his goal and purpose. It is that God may "*give unto you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.*"

With these two things firmly in hand, the rest of the prayer can follow. The spirit of wisdom refers to the attitude and disposition with which we approach life. When we look at everything as God says they are, then we have a spirit of wisdom. When we study the proverbs we find that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. How we are developing in this area is our first point of comparison here. If we lack this wisdom and insight then we need to ask God to help us see things more clearly. "*But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him*" (James 1:5).

When we have the wisdom based upon God's word, we will have the revelation in the knowledge (epignosis -- exact precise knowledge). We will then see things the way they really are and can respond exactly as we ought to respond. This will lead to "the eyes of your heart" being enlightened: "*having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that ye may know*" (Eph. 1:18).

An enlightened mind is one that has mind, emotions, and desire focused. As we love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we can have our eyes lit up. When we walk in the light as he is in the light (1 John 1:7) the eyes of our heart gradually become enlightened (lit up) with the truth. In this case,

Paul's prayer for wisdom, revelation and knowledge focuses upon three things: "*having the eyes of your heart enlightened, that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to that working of the strength of his might*" (Eph. 1:18,19).

Paul was intensely concerned that these faithful and loving brethren know **1) the hope of their calling, 2) the riches of the glory of God's inheritance in the saints and 3) the exceeding greatness of his power.**

So the first order of business in our assessment is to honestly ask ourselves if we have this yet? Are the eyes of our heart lit up with these things? Do we know them? The term "know" comes from the Greek term eido and Latin term video. It refers to our ability to see and understand something. Can we see and understand these three things to the degree that we can visualize them and feel the appropriate emotions when we see them?

The Hope of Your Calling

In the everyday course of your life what does this hope of your calling mean to us? Is our heart "lit up" with it, do we think of it often, do we fully know what it is and are we prepared to give reasons for it (1 Pet. 3:15)?

Why did we obey the call out of darkness through the gospel (1 Thess. 2:13-14; 1 Pet. 2:9-10)? What hope did God offer to us that would motivate us to do so (Eph. 4:4; 1 Pet. 1:3-4; Rom. 8:18)? **A new home, a new body, a new life.** Does this hope light up your soul? The hope of your calling should fill our life with so much joy and peace that nothing else can enter. Christianity does not allow rival hopes (See also Phil. 1:21-24; 3:8-11; Heb. 11:13-16).

The Riches of the Glory of His Inheritance in the Saints

Paul is praying that each of us will have our minds lit up with how important we are in the eyes of God. Have you ever pondered what God is going to receive out of all the effort He has put forth in the creation and redemption of man?

God's inheritance: The world is to be burned up with fervent heat (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Wicked men will be cast into eternal fire (Rev. 20:11-15; Ezek. 33:11). The Saints are God's heritage and God's inheritance! (Eph. 1:11).

Do we understand how valuable we are to God? All the work toil and effort at creation, all the work toil and effort in the redemption of mankind, the death of Jesus on the cross, EVERYTHING!! We are all God is going to receive. **Talk about a valuable gold nugget, the saints are the most valuable of all** (Ps. 116:15).

What the Exceeding Greatness of His Power to Us-ward Who Believe

So great that it passes knowledge (Eph. 3:20-21)! Paul wants us to understand that it is exceeding great. His illustration is enlightening in itself. The power at our disposal is equivalent to the power God exercised when Jesus was raised from the dead. Remember also Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Remember Esther. Remember the children sitting by the Red Sea. But above all remember Jesus dead in the tomb. We are to know the power (1 Thess. 2:13; Isa. 55:10-11; Rom. 1:16; Heb. 4:12).

The word of God is our access to that power. The Word is the power. Read it, study it, memorize it, meditate upon it. The more of it you have in your heart, the greater your own power and ability will become (2 Tim. 1:12; 4:7-8).

