

SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 30, 2012

Announcements for the Week John Paul Baker
Morning Service **Evening Service**
Prayer- Andy Fuller **Prayer-** Andy Dobbs
Song Leader- Dan Buselmeier **Song Leader-** Jason LaChappelle
Communion:
-- **Comments** – Marshall Irvin **Comments** – Alex Tucker
-- **Assisting** – Alex Tucker **Serving** – Payden Frix
-- **Assisting** – Payden Frix
-- **Assisting** – Todd Hudson
-- **Assisting** – David Johnson
Scripture – Curran LaChappelle **Scripture** – Connor LaChappelle
Closing Prayer- Marshall Foxworthy **Closing Prayer-** Kevin Criswell
Wednesday Night – January 2, 2013
First Prayer – Matt Fuller
Song Leader – Roger German
Invitation – Andy Dobbs
Closing Prayer – Jay Dobbs

Upcoming Assignments:

January	Communion	Cleaning
6	Foxworthy	Dobbs, Bailey, Fuller, LaChappelle
13	Stone	Dorn, Irvin, Williams, Griffing

Notes:

The Ladies meet on the first and third Monday of the month. The first meeting of the New Year will be on January 7th at 7PM.

New Teaching Quarter: The new quarter for the Bible Classes will start on January 6. This is a great opportunity to step up your personal service to the Lord in the New Year. Can you top your personal best from last year?

Everyone has 104 opportunities to express service and appreciation to the Lord. If you participated in every Sunday session you have a 50% service ratio. By attending 10 Wednesday sessions your percentage would jump to 60%. If someone has not attended any Bible Classes at all last year, then just attending ONE class will see a 100% increase!



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 Elders: Dan Buselmeier, Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain
 Deacons: John Paul Baker, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller,
 Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

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People In Exile

1. Who was brought down to Egypt and sold to a man named Potiphar?
2. Who chose to go into exile rather than constantly quarrel with his brother?
3. Who was exiled from the rest of the world?
4. Who did Abraham banish to the desert?

Bible Study & Bible Classes

Adapted from an article by Edwin Crozier

I love Bible classes. I think they are a great way for us to edify one another and for the congregation to build up its members. The classes were probably the most influential aspect of my conversion from Catholicism. I think they are a great tool for evangelism and a great means for the shepherds to oversee feeding the flock.

However, I have concerns. I am told there was a time when people looked to members of churches of Christ as “walking Bibles.” I don’t think we have that reputation anymore. I wonder sometimes if our approach to Bible classes has contributed to this demise. I know that sounds odd, but hear me out.

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

Bible Study & Bible Classes

Continued

There was a time when Bible study equaled Bible study. Christians, wanting to know God better and know His will better, got into their Bibles and learned. They memorized Scripture, hiding God's word in their hearts so they might not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11). They learned to rightly divide and apply the Word of Truth so they might be approved of God and not be ashamed (2 Timothy 2:15). They wanted to give a defense of the hope that was in them so they learned what the Scriptures taught (1 Peter 3:15).

Additionally, parents understood if their children were to know the Bible, they had to teach them. They would hear lessons during the assemblies, but that was not enough to raise a child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

I don't know exactly when congregations started Bible classes and when doing so impacted personal study. However, over time, it seems to me, Bible study began to equal preparing for Bible class. I guess it is possible that preparing for some classes can be so challenging doing so suffices for good, solid, strong Bible study. Most of the time, however, that is just not the case.

Sadly, the progression didn't stop. For many, Bible study now equals simply attending the Bible class. Even sadder, for some, Bible study means saying, "Well my congregation has Bible classes. I keep meaning to go."

I hope you and your children attend our classes. I hope you prepare for them. But please, do not think preparing for class equals serious Bible study, devotion to the teaching (cf Acts 2:42) or raising your children in the instruction of the Lord. Remember the Bereans of Acts 17:11. Receive the word taught in our classes and our assemblies with gladness, but search the Scriptures daily on your own. Teach your children from the word daily. Our classes are a jumping off point, a place for discussion and learning from the perspectives of others. They were never intended to be the in depth study you need to fill your heart with God's word.

Don't rely on our Bible classes as your sole source of biblical nourishment. Be diligent to show yourself approved, learning how to accurately use the word of God and pass that on to your children.



Going Through The Motions

By David Maxson

...apart from me you can do nothing. [John 15:5]

This seems like an odd statement for Jesus to make. Look around and you witness people doing lots of things in this life without Jesus in their life; they learn, build, achieve, grow, and provide for themselves quite well.

But all of this activity is for naught. It is like the hamster running the treadmill in his cage. It may feel (in the moment) like these things matter. It may feel (in the moment) like these things have lasting value. But it is all meaningless.

All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. [Ecclesiastes 1:8-9]



The world will tell you that if you go to the right school or buy the right product or find the right mate or choose the right diet or adopt the right philosophy that you'll find satisfaction. DON'T BELIEVE IT! It is yet another lie from the Devil.

Whatever he gives you will look bright and sparkly, but don't take it... it is fool's gold.

Listen to what Jesus is telling you and me in this verse. He is not an egomaniac. He is saying this for our benefit. Jesus doesn't want us to waste our time on things that don't matter. He wants us to concentrate our energies into our relationship with Him. If we fail to abide in Him, nothing we do makes any difference at all.

Pray the God will help us to see the vanity of all we do apart from Jesus. Ask Him to find purpose and meaning in all that we do by focusing all our attention on a relationship with Him.



Answers from page 1

1. Joseph [Genesis 39:1]
2. Jacob [Genesis 27:41-45]
3. Noah and his family, since everyone else died [Genesis 7:23]
4. Hagar and Ishmael [Genesis 21:14]

