

SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 3, 2013

Announcements for the Week

Doug Davidson

Morning Service

Prayer- Dan Buselmeier

Song Leader- Bill McIlvain

Communion:

-- **Comments** – Andy Dobbs

-- **Assisting** – Darryl Griffing

-- **Assisting** – Curran LaChappelle

-- **Assisting** – Alex Tucker

-- **Assisting** – Gary Goddard

Scripture – Kevin Criswell

Closing Prayer- David Fuller

Evening Service

Prayer- Matt Fuller

Song Leader- Dan Buselmeier

Comments – Bill McIlvain

Serving – Phillip Dorn

Scripture – Roger German

Closing Prayer- Andy Fuller

Wednesday Night – March 6, 2013

First Prayer – David Johnson

Song Leader – Andy Dobbs

Invitation – Ben Hall

Closing Prayer – Jay Dobbs

Upcoming Assignments:

March	Communion	Cleaning
10	LaChappelle	McIlvain, Ferrell, Criswell, Tucker
17	Criswell	Johnson, Baker, Goddard, Land

Notes:

The Ladies meet on the first and third Monday of the month. The next meeting will be Monday, March 18, at 7PM.

Gospel Meeting: Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Ben Hall [from Embry-Hills Congregation] starts today. It is still not too late to make phone calls to invite a friend or neighbor to come with you on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

We will not alter the teaching program this morning but will suspend the bible classes on Wednesday to accommodate the Meeting. This morning's bible class will encompass the materials from this morning and Wednesday. It may be a challenge to get everything in, but we will make best efforts.



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

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Covington Church of Christ

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Elders: Dan Buselmeier, Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain

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

Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

March 3, 2013

God's People In A World Of Darkness

Presented by Ben Hall

Lessons Are Based On (1 Peter 2:9-10)

- 1. Strangers & Exiles**
- 2. Newborn Babies**
- 3. Obedient Children**
- 4. A Royal Priesthood**
- 5. Called to Suffering**

Times of Services:

Sunday [March 3] 9 AM Bible Classes as usual

10 AM – Lesson # 1 5 PM Lesson #2

Monday through Wednesday: 7:30 PM - Lessons #3-5



The Greatest Gift

By Ben Hall

Jesus once said, ***“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35)***. This seems like a strange statement especially when we consider the definition of the word “blessed” that Jesus used. This word is defined by Strong’s as “fortunate, well off: -blessed, happy.” In our world, we tend to believe the opposite of what Jesus said.

The Greatest Gift

Continued



If someone gives up the things that they have, then obviously he does not have what he gave up which would mean that he is less blessed, less fortunate, less happy. I suppose this comes from our conception of what it means to be “blessed.”

We usually look at those who have many possessions as people who are blessed.

Jesus obviously disagrees. He looks at those who give up more as being the ones who truly have the greatest gifts of life. The conclusion we can draw is that happiness is more than having things. But how is there a gift to be found in giving?

Jesus says that real happiness comes through making sacrifices by giving to God and to others. So why do I not always feel more blessed when I give or my time, energy, or any of my other possessions?

The Macedonian Christians were a group of people who experienced the blessedness of giving and the core of their sacrificial joy is explained by our brother Paul in 2 Corinthians. He said that the Macedonian Christians first This verse outlines the process of finding the great blessing of giving.

First, give *yourself*. Without emptying yourself of yourself, you will never be able to find any sort of happiness in giving. We are to be living sacrifices. We do not merely give a sacrifice; we *are* the sacrifice that is given. Unfortunately, as living sacrifices we crawl off the altar as soon as we get the chance rather than truly giving ourselves away. If we would remain on the altar, we could find the blessing that we are searching for.

Second, give yourself *to the Lord*. We all give ourselves to something. People give themselves over to work, school, friends, family, politics, humanitarianism, among many other things. Yet anything you could give yourself over to will ultimately be dissatisfying.

This dissatisfaction with giving ourselves to different things can be for many different reasons but two of the most common are: 1) feeling unappreciated for all that we give up and 2) not believing that the cause we are giving to is really all that worthwhile.

Giving yourself to the Lord is superior in both of these regards. In giving ourselves to the Lord we have intimacy, unity and appreciation with Him which results in the sharing of mutual joy. Also, when we give ourselves to the Lord we can have the confidence that He is worth everything we give in our service to Him.

Finally, this passage teaches us that after giving ourselves to God then we should also *give ourselves to others*. The Macedonians first gave themselves to the Lord but that was followed up in their everyday lives by giving to Paul and other people around them who were in need.

This makes perfect sense considering it was the Lord whom they gave themselves to that once said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” In our daily walk we must never forget that part of giving to the Lord is also giving to the people we encounter in this world.

Do you want to find blessing from God? Give yourself in thanksgiving to the Lord who gave Himself to you and then share His grace by giving to the people around you. Only in this full self-sacrifice will you find the joy of the Spirit and be blessed by God.

