

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 11, 2013**

<b>Announcements for the Week</b>	Jason LaChappelle
<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
<b>Prayer-</b> David Fuller	<b>Prayer-</b> Marshall Irvin
<b>Song Leader-</b> Dan Buselmeier	<b>Song Leader-</b> John Paul Baker
<b>Communion:</b>	
-- <b>Comments</b> – Russ Sollars	<b>Comments</b> – Marshall Irvin
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Phillip Dorn	<b>Serving</b> – Kevin Criswell
-- <b>Assisting</b> – David Johnson	
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Justin Carr	
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Gary Goddard	
<b>Scripture</b> – Curran LaChappelle	<b>Scripture</b> – J. Maxwell Irvin
<b>Closing Prayer-</b> Alex Tucker	<b>Closing Prayer-</b> Mike Shepherd
<b><u>Wednesday Night – August 14, 2013</u></b>	
<b>First Prayer</b> – Doug Davidson	
<b>Song Leader</b> – Alex Tucker	
<b>Invitation</b> – Russ Sollars	
<b>Closing Prayer</b> – David Johnson	
<b>August 24 Sunday Evening Service</b> – Dan Buselmeier	

**Upcoming Assignments**

August	Communion	Cleaning
18	Tucker	Foxworthy, German, McMullen, Jones, Stewart
24	Jones	McIlvain, Ferrell, Criswell, Tucker

The Steps That Lead to Eternal Salvation:

- **Hear the gospel**, for that is how faith comes (Rom. 10:17; John 20:30,31)
- **Believe in the deity of Christ** (John 8:24; John 3:18)
- **Repent of your sins** (Luke 13:5; Acts 17:30)
- **Confess faith in Christ** (Rom. 10:9,10; Acts 8:36-38)
- **Be baptized in water** for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 3:26,27; 1 Pet. 3:21)
- **Continue in the faith**; for, if not, salvation can be lost (Heb. 10:36-39; Rev. 2:10; 2 Pet. 2:20-22).

*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 Andy Dobbs.

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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

August 11, 2013

*Would I Study My Bible If...?*

By Paul Johnson

William McPherson had a charge of dynamite go off in his face. He lost his eyes and hands and the feeling in parts of his face.

He realized how much the Bible meant to him and he greatly needed its strength. He could not read it in Braille because of his artificial hands. He tried to place his lips on the dots, but they were too soft to decipher the Moon type system of dashes. The metal left his lips and tongue bleeding and very sore, but he prayed to God to help him continue to learn the letters of the alphabet. In the 65 years that followed, he read the Bible through four times with his tongue.

*Would I study the Bible if...* the same thing happened to me that happened to Mr. McPherson? Would I have the desire, the intense desire to know God's will that I would go through what he did to learn? I wonder if I would not rather have decided, "I can't ever read the Bible again." And "God will understand".



## Would I Study My Bible If...?

Continued

**Would I study the Bible if...** I had to get up an hour earlier each day to work it into my busy schedule? Or miss my favorite TV program if at that hour I remembered I hadn't studied my Bible for the day and wouldn't have time afterwards?

**Would I study the Bible if...** I didn't feel just right, or if I had had a hard day at work, or if I was just too tired? Or would I study even though I was a slow reader and it took me all day just to read one or two chapters?

**Would I study the Bible if...** when the saints were assembled I had to occasionally go without supper till after services, or walk or drive several blocks to get there?

How many "if's" keep you from studying the Bible? Is this matter of no importance to you at all? If it is, then do something about it. That McPherson fellow -- I guess his example will haunt me the rest of my life.

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## Don't Be Like the Mule

By Dan Shipley

*"I will **instruct** you and **teach** you in the way which you should go; I will **counsel** you with My eye upon you. Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding; whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, otherwise they will not come near to you" (Ps.32:8,9 NASV).*

The difference between a mule and a man without understanding is that the mule has an excuse. Mules have no capacity for understanding. Things such as the instruction, teaching, and counseling mentioned in these verses would be wasted on the mule. **They can also be wasted on men.**

God teaches men the way in which they should go (v. 8). However, some men do not understand His teachings because they do not choose to do so. Hence, the admonition, "do not be as the horse or as the mule...." Men can be different from the mule; they can have an understanding in the will and way of

God. In fact, God appeals to man's understanding in these very verses in telling him not to be without it.

Important principles are involved here. Calvinism says that unregenerate man is like the mule; that he cannot understand. However, they forfeit their case by pointing unregenerate man to Bible passages that supposedly prove his inability to understand and expect him to understand the passages that say he can't! In addition, appeals and arguments based on Scripture are made to the unregenerate that allegedly have no capacity for understanding them. Calvinists have even been known to debate their positions with the "unregenerates." To them, that should be something like arguing with a mule. In the face of such glaring inconsistencies, it appears that the mule is not alone in his lack of understanding.

Why would God say, "don't be like the mule" if man could not do otherwise? If it be objected that God is speaking to the regenerate here, then that would make them susceptible to NOT understanding, which is the very thing being regenerated supposedly makes possible. But the truth is, God addresses Himself to the UNREGENERATE; to the sinner. He instructs and teaches them in WORDS whereby they might be saved (Acts 11:14).

Unregenerate men come to the Savior and salvation as the result of hearing and learning what God teaches (Jn. 6:45), NOT by the Holy Spirit's "bit and bridle" being placed upon his heart in some unsought and irresistible way. As indicated in our text, the mule comes near his master in response to the bit and bridle. Those made in the image of God come to their Master in response to His invitation; they come in a spirit of willing submission motivated by genuine love. You might say that the mule HAS to submit to his master's REIN; but that understanding man WANTS to submit to his Master's REIGN.

The tragedy is not that sinful man cannot understand, but that many will not (Matt. 13:14,15). It comes to all who sincerely want it and diligently seek it (Jn. 7:17; Matt. 5:6). It comes to those who are willing to put aside pride, prejudice and indifference. God shows the way which we should go. **Don't be like the mule.**

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