

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for October 6, 2013**

**Announcements for the Week**

Jason LaChappelle

**Morning Service**

**Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Doug Davidson

**Prayer-** Marshall Irvin

**Song Leader-** Dan Buselmeier

**Song Leader-** John Paul Baker

**Communion:**

**Comments** – Marshall Irvin

-- **Comments** – Doug Davidson

**Communion** – Kevin Criswell

-- **Assisting** – Phillip Dorn

-- **Assisting** – David Johnson

-- **Assisting** – Justin Carr

-- **Scripture** – Russ Sollars

**Scripture** – J. Maxwell Irvin

**Closing Prayer-** Andy Fuller

**Closing Prayer-** Mike Shepherd

**Wednesday Night – October 8, 2013**

**First Prayer-** Doug Davidson

**Song Leader** – Mike Shepherd

**Invitation** – Andy Dobbs

**Closing Prayer** – David Johnson

**October 27 Sunday Evening Lesson** –John Paul Baker

**Upcoming Assignments**

October	Communion	Cleaning
13	Fuller	Johnson, Baker, Goddard, Land
20	Johnson	Davidson, Hudson, Stone, Denney

**Ladies Bible study is on the first and third Mondays of the month. Next meeting is tomorrow evening at 7PM**

**Service**

“Power is meant to be shared with the goal of empowering others. Hoarded power weakens others and exalts oneself. Power, when grounded in biblical values, serves others by liberating them. It acknowledges that people bear the image of God and treats them in a way that will nurture the development of that image. In so doing, we honor their Creator.” — Duane Elmer, *Cross-Cultural Servanthood: Serving the World in Christlike Humility*



*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 [Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com](mailto:Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com)

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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

October 6, 2013

*Incidents With Jesus*

1. According to Matthew’s Gospel, what Sabbath healing caused the Pharisees to plot to kill Jesus?
2. What did Jesus’ tell the two blind men to do after he healed them?
3. What future disciple did Jesus see, through miraculous means, sitting under a fig tree?
4. When Jesus healed a man who was both blind and dumb, what demon did the Pharisees accuse Him of consorting with?



*Why Go To Hell Twice?*

By David Diestelkamp

Arguably, the statement, "My life is hell on earth," is false. Of course, exaggeration is understandable during times of intense suffering--but what if it wasn't exaggeration? What if life really is so bad that worse cannot be imagined? Well, God still insists that eternal hell is worse, since it is total absence of the presence of His glory (2 Thessalonians 1:8). Faith says, no matter what happens in this life, to "curse God and die" (Job 2:9) is not the answer.



## Why Go To Hell Twice?

Continued

If someone maintains that their life truly is "hell on earth," then surely they will get their fill of it here and do everything possible to go to heaven in eternity! If life is hellish, why go to hell twice? Why let temporary suffering lead to eternal suffering? Any glimpse of hell someone may think they get in this life should serve as driving motivation, pushing them to find the way to heaven and to do whatever is necessary to go that way.



Why do so many blame God for evil and suffering, rather than Satan? Why do so many choose an eternity in hell rather than in heaven? The biggest problem we face is that it hurts *now!* It's hard, perhaps even impossible, to ignore searing pain, even if we are told it is temporary or that something better awaits us in eternity. The cry is, "Make it go away now!" The temptation is to deprecate future eternal spiritual bliss while desperately searching for and clinging to false promises of temporary physical relief.

Faith and hope say we have to wait to see and have what we desperately need (Hebrews 11:1; Romans 8:24-25). We hate waiting--especially when the deficiency is or seems urgent or unbearable. God does not ask that we ignore pain, depravation or loneliness. He does not suggest that these are not real. What God does ask is that we know and trust Him enough that we will accept His answer to these.

Most people contend that God sometimes answers "yes" to requests for relief from suffering, and sometimes He responds with a "no." This, in turn, opens up a debate as to why God might give such replies in certain circumstances. Some conclude that a good and loving God wouldn't sit by and do nothing as suffering and death ravage us--and they are right! God has done something!

Unbelief based on human suffering misses the theme of the Bible, it denies the value of God becoming flesh, and ignores the proclamation of the cross--God cares! ***"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).*** Is it possible that, as God told Paul, His grace is "sufficient"? (2 Corinthians 12:9).

God knows that we need our tears wiped away--no more death, sorrow, crying and pain (Revelation 21:4). These are real needs and are addressed fully by God by giving His servants a home where none of these exist for eternity. It is not cruelty for God not to end suffering for everyone now, it is merciful for Him to give us a way to conquer even death "through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

Suffering now pushes us toward God because He alone can end it for us. Focusing on heaven motivates faithfulness since ***"the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).***

What is the alternative? What is the point of being "of those who draw back to perdition"? (Hebrews 10:39). Will we let the feeling of being cursed in this life cause us to choose damnation? What is the point of going through a life of suffering while also holding to ***"a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries" (Hebrews 10:27).***

Why would anyone want to go to hell twice? God's mercy and grace says we don't have to.



### Answers from page 1

1. Healing a man with a withered hand [Matthew 12:10-14]
2. Not too tell anyone else [Matthew 9:27-31]
3. Nathanael [John 1:48]
4. Beelzebub [Matthew 21:14-16]

