

SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 3, 2014

Announcements for the Week

Jason LaChappelle

Morning Service

Evening Service

Prayer- Roger German

Prayer- Jason LaChappelle

Song Leader- Doug Davidson

Song Leader- Scott Lucas

Communion:

Comments – Andy Fuller

-- **Comments** – Andy Dobbs

Communion – Roger German

-- **Assisting** –Kevin Criswell

-- **Assisting** – Cliff Davis

-- **Assisting** – John MacQuilliam

-- **Assisting** – Gary Goddard

-- **Scripture** – Andrew Johnson

Scripture – Gary Goddard

Closing Prayer- Phillip Dorn

Closing Prayer- Marshall Foxworthy

Wednesday Night – August 6, 2014

First Prayer- Andy Dobbs

Song Leader – Curran LaChappelle

Invitation – Marshall Irvin

Closing Prayer – David Johnson

August 24 Evening Service: Dan Buselmeier

August 29 Evening Song & Scripture Service

Upcoming Assignments

August	Communion	Cleaning
10	German	Davidson, Hudson, Stone, Denney, Shepherd
17	Tucker	Dobbs, Bailey, Fuller, LaChappelle, Shacklock

JUSTICE:

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?” - C.S. Lewis

“I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.” -- Abraham Lincoln

Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God's scheme ultimately leads back to the cross. ” -- Philip Yancey

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

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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 3, 2014

Who Said That?

1. I have sinned this time; the Lord is righteous, and I and my people are wicked.
2. Give me your vineyard that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near my house; and I will give you a better vineyard.
3. Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.
4. Whoever shall read this writing, and show me the interpretation thereof, shall be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.



The Spiritual Optimist

By W. Frank Walton

Do you consider your basic outlook in life as an optimist or a pessimist?

Optimism is defined as: “a disposition or tendency to look on the more favorable side of events or conditions and to expect the most favorable outcome” (Random House Unabridged Dictionary). Pessimism is defined: “the tendency to see, anticipate, or emphasize only bad or undesirable outcome, results, conditions, problems, etc.” (ibid).



The Spiritual Optimist

Continued

I believe the Bible teaches that you cannot a strong believer in God and be a spiritual pessimist.

Read Numbers 13 & 14. The 10 spies that discouraged the Israelites from entering Canaan were spiritual pessimists! They saw obstacles instead of opportunities of faith to trust God's power to take the land. Their pessimistic outlook caused them to negatively exaggerate reality and see themselves as tiny, weak grasshoppers. Such negativity breed pessimistic grumbling and a defeatist attitude among the people. They wanted to "play it safe" and regress, instead of make progress.

Caleb and Joshua were spiritual optimists! Spiritual optimism thinks, "The odds don't count if God is on our side! God is greater than any obstacle we face. Although we may have differ personality types, our personality traits are molded by Biblical faith, hope and love.

1. Optimistic Faith in God. In 1 Samuel 17, young David had optimistic faith in God. He confidently believed he could defeat Goliath, the Philistines' giant champion. Yet, King Saul's army was filled with spiritual pessimists in facing Goliath's challenge. They were "dismayed" and "afraid" to take him on. Their pessimism thought Goliath was too big to hit, while David's optimistic faith believed he was too big to miss. David believed the odds don't count if God is on your side.

A spiritual optimist will rely on the Scriptures that encourage us to have unlimited confidence in the power and promises of God. **"With God, all things are possible"** (Matthew 19:26). The believer can do great things through God: ***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"*** (Philippians 4:13). We serve the true and living God who has infinite power: **"Nothing shall be impossible with God"** (Luke 1:3). Although there are more such scriptures that would choke the most stubborn pessimist, we can raise our belief level by looking away from our limitations and looking up to Almighty God in optimist faith!

We all have menacing giants to face, like worldly temptation, religious false doctrine, stubborn problems and discouraging obstacles. Yet, optimistic faith in God confidently believes they can be defeated!

2. Optimistic Love for Others.

We learn the power of love from our amazing, loving God (1 John 4:7-8). Love for others is sacrificial goodwill, to always act in another's best interest. A spiritual optimist will believe that love is the most powerful force in the world. It can change bitter relations into better ones. ***"Love...believes all things, bears all things, hopes all things. Love never fails"*** (1 Corinthians 13:7-8). Love for others will believe the best, not the worst. Love will not grow cynical or bitter, but will endure others faults to achieve, in love, a higher good for them.



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3. Optimistic Hope for the Future. People often commit suicide because they feel, based on current circumstances, that life isn't worth living. In despair, they want to escape the discouraging futility of "hopeless" situations. The optimistic Christian, despite the current outlook, will hang on to God's vision of hope.

Hope is confident expectation in the future promises of God. Through the gospel we are assured that ***"it is impossible for God to lie"*** (Hebrews 6:18). The hope of forgiveness through Christ's sacrifice tells us God has invested a fortune to bring us safely to His eternal home. Hence, ***"we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast"*** (Hebrews 6:19). Hope lifts our outlook past the storms of life with our current problems. Whatever pain or perplexity we face, they will one day pass away in the clear, unclouded day of eternity. Hope anchors us to an eternal perspective.



Answers from page 1

1. Pharaoh [Exodus 9:27]
2. Ahab [1 Kings 21:2]
3. Ahasuerus [Esther 8:7]
4. Belshazzar [Daniel 5:7]

