

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 31, 2014**

**Announcements for the Week**

John Paul Baker

**Morning Service**

**Evening Service**

Prayer- Mark Jones

Prayer- Philip Dorn

Song Leader- Andy Dobbs

Song Leader- Various

**Communion:**

**Comments** – Scott Lucas

-- **Comments** – Andy Fuller

**Communion** – Kevin Criswell

-- **Assisting** – David Johnson

-- **Assisting** – Curran LaChappelle

-- **Assisting** – Connor LaChappelle

-- **Assisting** – J. Maxwell Irvin

-- **Scripture** – John MacQuilliam

**Scripture** – Justin Carr

**Closing Prayer**- Trey Irvin

**Closing Prayer**- Mike Shepherd

**Wednesday Night – September 3, 2014**

**First Prayer**– Andy Dobbs

**Song Leader** – Matt Fuller

**Invitation** – Curran LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer** – Kevin Criswell

**August 31 Evening Song & Scripture Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

September	Communion	Cleaning
7	Buselmeier	McIlvain, Tucker, Ferrell, Criswell, Davis
14	Irvin	Johnson, baker, Goddard, Land

**On Our Point Of View:**

“All of us, poor & rich alike, have been conditioned by our upbringings. Impoverished men & women may become lulled into a state of "learned helplessness" without hope to change their lives. Likewise, the wealthy can walk in a state of "learned blindness" ignoring the desperation of the local & global poor.” — John Green

“At least at times of loss, we are reminded of our priorities, of our many blessings. In times of gain, we can so often lose our way.” — Mindy Starns Clark, Secrets of Harmony Grove

*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

August 31, 2014

*Their Last Words*

1. Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.
2. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.
3. My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people: a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.
4. God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here.

*The World's Most Falsifiable Religion*

C. Michael Patten, adapted

The gospel is the only viable worldview that is historically defensible. The central claims of the Bible demand historic inquiry, as they are based on public events that can be historically verified.

In contrast, the central claims of all other religions cannot be historically tested and, therefore, are beyond falsifiability or inquiry. They just have to be believed with blind faith.

## [The World's Most Falsifiable Religion](#)

Continued

The believer in the Islamic faith has to trust in a private encounter Muhammad had, and this encounter is unable to be tested historically. We have no way to truly investigate the claims of Joseph Smith (and when we do, they are found wanting). Buddhism and Hinduism are not historic faiths, meaning they do not have central claims of events in time and space which believers are called upon to investigate. You either adopt their philosophy or you do not. There is no objective way to test them. Run through every religion that you know of and you will find this to be the case: Either it does not give historic details to the central event, the event does not carry any worldview-changing significance, or there are no historic events which form the foundation of the faith.

For example, consider the claims of the New Testament. After a public ministry, Christ was killed publicly. Christ then rose from the tomb and showed Himself to the public, who then told everyone what they saw. Other religions, such as Islam and Mormonism, started with a private dream, a private angelic encounter, or a private idea. One person then told everyone what he saw.

If I decided to start a religion, I would not make false claims to recent historic events that did not happen. Why? Because I know those claims could be tested. Also, I would not give details about the time, place, and people involved. More than that, I would not invite contemporaries to investigate these claims. For example, if I were to say today that in 1965 there was a man named Titus who was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma and traveled about Oklahoma City doing many miracles and gaining a significant following, this could easily be falsified. I would not say that Mary Fallin, the governor of Oklahoma, had Titus electrocuted. I would not detail that the electrocution was in Bricktown on January 13, 1968 at 9:00 a.m. I would not claim that Titus rose from the dead and gained a significant following throughout Oklahoma City which has spread across America. Why would I not make these claims as the foundation of my new religion? Because they can be easily tested and falsified. This religion could not possibly get off the ground. If I were to make up a religion, all the events which support the religion (if any) would be private and beyond testing.

This is why you do not have religions based on historic events. They are all, with the exception of the New Testament, based on private encounters which cannot be falsified or subjective ideas which are beyond inquiry. The amazing fact about the gospel is that there is so much historic data to be tested. The gospel of Christ is, by far, the most falsifiable worldview there is. Yet, despite this, the gospel of Christ flourished in the first century among the very people who could test its claims. And even today, it calls on us to “come and see” if the claims are true.

The only reason why I can say the gospel survived in the midst of such historic volatility is because it is true. And this is exactly what I would expect if there were an all-powerful God who created and loves this world. When He intervenes, He makes a significant enough footprint that historic inquiry is demanded. Think about that next time you are critiquing the gospel. The only reason you can is because it is the only religion that has opened itself up to such critique. Simply put, the gospel of Christ is the most falsifiable religion there is and yet it has survived. Why?



## [A Worm In The Apple](#)

By Benny B. Bristow

How does a worm get inside an apple? Perhaps you think the worm burrows in from the outside. No, the worm comes from the inside, but how does he get there? Simple. An insect lays an egg in the apple blossom. Sometime later the worm hatches in the heart of the apple, then eats its way out. Sin, like the worm, begins in the heart and works out through the person's thoughts, words, and actions. For this reason, David once wrote, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10).*



### Answers from page 1

1. Stephen [Acts 7:59-60]
2. Jacob [Genesis 49:31]
3. Simeon [Luke 2:30-32]
4. Joseph [Genesis 50:25]

