

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for November 23, 2014**

<b>Announcements for the Week</b>	Dan Buselmeier
<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
<b>Prayer-</b> Mark Jones	<b>Prayer-</b> Don Casper
<b>Song Leader-</b> Marshall Irvin	<b>Song Leader-</b> Andy Dobbs
<b>Communion:</b>	
-- <b>Comments</b> – Andy Dobbs	<b>Comments</b> – Scott Lucas
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Trey Irvin	<b>Communion</b> – Mark Jones
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Phillip Dorn	
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Todd Hudson	
-- <b>Assisting</b> – Gary Goddard	
-- <b>Scripture</b> – Darryl Griffing	<b>Scripture</b> – Various
<b>Closing Prayer-</b> Josh Hudson	<b>Closing Prayer-</b> Cliff Davis

**Wednesday Night – November 26, 2014**

**First Prayer**– Andy Fuller  
**Song Leader** – Don Casper  
**Invitation** – Dan Buselmeier  
**Closing Prayer** – David Johnson

**November 23 Evening Prayer Service**

**November 30 Song & Scripture Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

November	Communion	Cleaning
30	Carr	McIlvain, Tucker, Ferrell, Criswell, Davis
Dec 7	Dobbs	Johnson, Baker, Goddard, Land

**Ladies Bible Class --**

The ladies bible class meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month at 7PM. Next Scheduled meeting is Monday, December 1 here at the building.

**Good Thoughts --** “Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand; it is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy.” — Wendell Berry  
 “Never pray for justice, because you might get some.” — Margaret Atwood



*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

November 23, 2014

**The Bible Greenhouse**

1. What tree's fruit was used to make a plaster to heal the diseased King Hezekiah?
2. On what day of creation did God make the plants?
3. In the parable of the sower, what unwanted plant causes some of the seeds to die?
4. What plant was used to lift up a sponge to the dying Jesus?



**The Appearance Of Evil**

By David Padfield

*"Some things [are] hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures" (2 Peter 3:16).*

Sometimes people "twist" the Scriptures because they have an evil heart and do not really care what God has said -- they will twist the Scriptures to justify their own evil actions. Other people will unknowingly "twist" the Scriptures -- usually as a result of a lack of Bible study.



## [The Appearance Of Evil](#)

Continued

If I were to make a list of the most abused (or "twisted") passages in the Bible, I think that *1 Thessalonians 5:22* would be near the head of the list. In the King James Version of the Bible this passage simply commands us to "*abstain from all appearance of evil.*" This verse is explained by many folks to mean that if some act "appears" to be evil then we must abstain from it. Of course, the person explaining the passage gets to determine what "appears" evil and what doesn't. If they don't like going to the movie theater then you can't go either -- it "appears" to be evil. If they don't like playing cards then you can't play either -- it "appears" to be evil.

Remembering Bible classes of my youth when other teenagers would ask questions about the morality of certain activities, often a Bible class teacher would respond that the suggested activity was sinful because it "appeared" to be evil in the eyes of some folks. After class the teenagers would often talk about the "profound" answer we had been given, then we tried to come up with a list of things that wouldn't "appear" evil to someone -- the list was mighty short.

I went to high school with several Mennonites and nearly everything I said or did "appeared" evil to them. My clothing was sinful because it wasn't black. We used electricity in our house and that was considered a sin. Maybe by now you can see the problem.

Translations of the Bible render this verse in a variety of ways. The New King James, Revised Standard, American Standard translate this verse as "abstain from every form of evil." The Contemporary English Version, recently introduced by the American Bible Society, translates this verse as "don't have anything to do with evil."

1 Thessalonians 5:22 is speaking about us abstaining from every manifestation and form of evil -- not telling us to avoid things that simply look like evil to someone else (a rather arbitrary standard). Since this is the case, why do so many Christians twist this passage into meaning something never intended? With many people I think you could blame laziness. Let me show you what I mean.

When a teenager asks what is wrong with going to the public beach, what do you tell them? You could tell them this practice "appears" evil in the sight of some and therefore they can't go. But friend, parading around half-naked at the beach is not wrong simply because it "appears" evil to someone else. It is wrong because of what the Lord

taught on modesty (1 Timothy 2:9). It takes more time to explain what modest apparel is and how when a *man "looks at a woman to lust for her (he) has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28)*. Instead of explaining lasciviousness and lust, they will talk about the "appearance" of evil. It usually does not take a teenager long to see that the "appearance of evil" standard is arbitrary at best.

What is wrong with smoking a cigarette? I know it "appears" evil to some people -- but not to everyone. Instead, talk with them about addiction -- something the Bible plainly condemns. Study about "sorcery" in Galatians 5:20. "Sorcery" is from the Greek word *pharmakia*, from which we get the English word "pharmacy." It might take a bit longer to explain, but at least you will be on solid ground.

If your neighbor wants to know why you don't buy a lottery ticket you could reply, "Well, I know it appears to be evil to a lot of folks and so I can't purchase one." Have you ever considered that the purchase of that same ticket might "appear" to be a good thing to some people? Before introducing the lottery, most states had politicians telling us how much good was going to be done with the proceeds from the sale of lottery tickets. They made it sound like buying a lottery ticket was the patriotic thing to do -- it would help the public schools and keep taxes low. If you argue about the virtues of the lottery on the basis of its appearance, you have already lost the discussion.

Instead of discussing the lottery (a topic the Bible does not mention), we need to discuss covetousness (a topic the Bible has a great deal to say about). The Bible says, "*put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (Colossians 3:5)*. What is it that motivates people to buy a lottery ticket? If they really wanted to help the schools they would give the money directly. If they want to try and get "something for nothing" they will gamble on a lottery ticket.

Study and apply what the Bible actually says about morality instead of setting arbitrary standards.



### Answers from page 1

1. The fig tree [2 Kings 20:7]
2. The third day [Genesis 1:9-13]
3. Thorns [Matthew 13:7]
4. Hyssop [Mark 15:9]

