

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 14, 2014**

**Announcements for the Week**

Marshall Irvin

**Morning Service**

**Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Jason LaChappelle

**Prayer-** Jason LaChappelle

**Song Leader-** Andy Dobbs

**Song Leader-** Andy Dobbs

**Communion:**

**Comments –** Marshall Irvin

-- **Comments –** Doug Davidson

**Communion –** Trey Irvin

-- **Assisting –** Roger German

-- **Assisting –** David Johnson

-- **Assisting –** Mark Jones

-- **Assisting –** Justin Carr

-- **Scripture –** Dan Buselmeier

**Scripture –** Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer-** Andy Fuller

**Closing Prayer-** Scott Lucas

**Wednesday Night – December 17, 2014**

**First Prayer–** Russ Sollars

**Song Leader –** Roger German

**Invitation –** Josh Hudson

**Closing Prayer –** Curran LaChappelle

**December 28 Evening Prayer Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

December	Communion	Cleaning
21	C. Stewart	Dobbs, Bailey, Fuller, LaChappelle, Shacklock
28	Goddard	Dorn, Irvin, Williams, Griffing

**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 tomorrow, December 15 here at the building.

**Elder & Deacon Meeting --**

The Elders and Deacons will be meeting TODAY [Dec. 14] at 3:00. Any interests or concerns you may have should be added to the agenda. We are looking for feedback regarding the Bible classes. We need to set a date for a Congregational Meeting at the first of the New Year.



*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

December 14, 2014

*Reptiles*

1. According to Isaiah, what is the food of the serpent?
2. Could the Israelites eat lizards?
3. According to the Psalm, what kind of man could tread on a cobra without fear?
4. What did Amos say would happen to a man who rested his hand on the wall of his own house?



*The Prudent Pause*

By Tim Nichols

We live in a time in which restraint and self-discipline are not widely considered to be virtues. Impulse guides behavior more than reason. The gap between the impulse and the resulting action is sometimes so small that, to many, it seems not to exist. Many seem to be willing to pronounce any act justified if the impulse that prompted it is in any way justified.

But we are accountable to God for our actions whether the world recognizes our accountability or does not.



## *The Prudent Pause*

Continued

When tempted to do a thing that is wrong we are equipped with the God-given ability to pause and think before acting. What happens during that pause may have eternal consequences. The Philadelphia Youth Study Center used to have this slogan: "The difference between the delinquent and the non-delinquent youth is the pause between the temptation and the act."

As we pause in the midst of temptation we ought to remind ourselves that we do not usually have to act swiftly. We sometimes make rash decisions rather than allow ourselves to choose our actions or words slowly and deliberately (Proverbs 6:18; Romans 3:15; James 1:19). Slow down. Widen the gap between the impulse and the action.

Take the time to think about the earthly consequences of your actions. How will your actions affect your family, the church, or your own reputation? Do you want to live with those consequences?

Take the time to consider all of your options. Under pressure we sometimes develop "tunnel vision". We see only one course of action when, in fact, there are many options available to us. Look for them. At least one of your options will always be morally right (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Take the time to consider the eternal consequences (Revelation 21:8). The fear motive may not be the "highest" motive in the rating system that some brethren use, but we ought to be grateful that God has revealed both his goodness and his severity (Romans 11:22). If a knowledge of God's wrath helps us to gain one ounce of resolve to do right and avoid evil, then we ought to be pleased to have such knowledge

Take the time to contemplate the goodness of God. He is the source of every good gift (James 1:17). He loved you enough to give his son that you might have eternal life (John 3:16). Pause to think of the debt of gratitude that you owe.

Pause to consider God's word. It contains divine guidance that can keep you from evil (Psalm 119:9-16). Sometimes in the midst of temptation, when tempers or passions are hottest, we search the Word of God less when we need it most. It is during such times that we would do well to heed the words of our heavenly father who said, *"Be still, and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10)



## *Godly Living and Long Life*

By Jim Jonas

Several recent studies identified a correlation between church attendance and longevity. A Duke University study found that 60% of those who attended at least once a week had stronger immune systems than those who did not worship regularly. Further, a 28 year study of over 5000 residents of Alameda County, California concluded that devoutly religious people had lower death rates than others.

Such studies will come as no surprise to those familiar with the Scriptures: *"My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you."* [Proverbs 3:1-2]. *"Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones."* [Proverbs 3:7-8]

The bottom line is that living according to the will of God results in a better quality and length of life here, not just in eternity. Why is this? Is it a guarantee that righteous people will necessarily live longer? No, the Bible also tells of faithful servants who died in the prime of life.

Generally speaking:

- 1) God's people do not engage in high risk, self-destructive behavior that often leads to premature death. In short, the Christian's chosen lifestyle leads out of harm's way.
- 2) God's people are emotionally healthier. Christians do not see themselves as victims but victors. They are not powerless but *"strong in the Lord and in the power of His might"* (Ephesians 6:10). Emotional stability fosters physical health.
- 3) God's people have a sense of purpose that results in focused, productive living. A sense of clear objective keeps our rigging taut and our sails from dry-rotting.

While our ultimate goal is eternal life, an added benefit of an obedient life is a better existence in the meantime.



### Answers from page 1

1. Dust [Isaiah 65:25]
2. No [Leviticus 11:29]
3. The man who trusts God [Psalm 91:13]
4. A snake would bite him [Amos 5:19]

