

SERVICE SCHEDULE for May 31, 2015

Announcements for the Week Dan Buselmeier
Morning Service
Prayer- Phillip Dorn
Song Leader- John Paul Baker
Communion:
 -- **Comments** – Andy Fuller
 -- **Assisting** – Tyler Akins
 -- **Assisting** – John MacQuilliam
 -- **Assisting** – Justin Carr
 -- **Assisting** – Connor LaChappelle
 -- **Scripture** – Jason LaChappelle
Closing Prayer- TBA
Evening Service
Prayer- TBA
Song Leader- various
Comments – Andy Fuller
Communion – Darryl Griffing
Scripture – Various
Closing Prayer- Marshall Foxworthy
Wednesday Night – June 3, 2015
First Prayer- TBA
Song Leader – TBA
Invitation – TBA
Closing Prayer – TBA
May 31 Evening Song & Scripture Service

Upcoming Assignments

June	Communion	Cleaning
7	Sammons	Davidson, K.Hudson, Stone, Denney, Shepherd
14	C. Stewart	Dobbs, Bailey, Fuller, LaChappelle, Shacklock

Good Thoughts --

If man had his way, the plan of redemption would be an endless and bloody conflict. In reality, salvation was bought not by Jesus' fist, but by His nail-pierced hands; not by muscle but by love; not by vengeance but by forgiveness; not by force but by sacrifice. Jesus Christ our Lord surrendered in order that He might win; He destroyed His enemies by dying for them and conquered death by allowing death to conquer Him. — A.W. Tozer, Daily Live the Blessed Hope

If you go looking for love you won't find it because love is never lost; only we are lost. — Shannon L. Alder



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

May 31, 2015

The Lowly Donkey

1. What prophet of Moab had a talking donkey?
2. What future king was looking for lost donkeys when he ran into Samuel?
3. Who gave his irate brother twenty donkeys as a goodwill gesture?
4. Who took his wife and sons and set them on a donkey when he returned to Egypt, his boyhood home?



If God Is Willing

By Edwin Crozier

Jesus' miracles can be seen as analogies of salvation. While they are about physical healing, we can learn lessons about spiritual healing. That is how I view Matthew 8:1-4. This miracle is a great illustration of conditional, yet unmerited salvation.

A leper came to Jesus, bowed down before Him and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Jesus said He was willing, stretched out His hand and cleansed the man.

Do we not all long for this same cleansing? At some point, we all contacted sin and it has clung to us like a disease, defiling and putrefying us. Unlike this leper, our sin was our choice, but now we would be cleansed and set free. But how?

[If God Is Willing](#)

Continued

We have to come to Jesus, or else we cannot be saved from our sins. Consider the leper in our story. Would he have been saved if he merely looked on Jesus from a distance, believing Jesus could heal him? Of course not. He had to do something. He had to ask. He had to meet a condition.

However, when he came to Jesus, was he somehow special? Had he earned healing? Did Jesus owe him healing? Certainly not. Thus, he approached Jesus saying, "If you are willing." The leper understood Jesus was in control of the healing. The leper understood he could not force Jesus' hand and demand healing. The leper understood coming to Jesus to seek healing was not some amazing work that mandated healing. It all depended on Jesus. Was He willing to bestow mercy on this man who had come to Him begging for it?

That is the exact picture of our salvation. We cannot sit among the crowd, hiding from Jesus merely thinking or believing Jesus can save us. We actually have to come to Him. We actually have to act. Romans 10:9-10, says we must believe in Jesus and confess our faith. In Acts 2:38, the people were commanded to repent and be baptized. We have to meet conditions.

However, when we come to Jesus we must realize salvation only comes if Jesus is willing. Our acting does not require salvation. Believing in Him, confessing Him, repenting of our sins and submitting in baptism does not place Jesus in our debt. Salvation is by grace (Ephesians 2:8-10). We should be grateful that, as with this leper, Jesus tells all those who faithfully and humbly come to Him seeking healing that He is willing. That is how gracious He is.

We must not however take the parallel too far. Because of the pragmatics of Jesus' earthly ministry, He told the leper not to say anything about this healing. We on the other hand should joyfully tell all about our healing so they too might turn to Jesus and hear, "I am willing; be cleansed."

[Death Is An Enemy & A Servant](#)

By David Maxson

For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's. [1 Corinthians 3:21-23]

This is a comforting passage. It's become a favorite that I like to use when preaching the funeral of a Christian. I like it because it tells us that death is a servant to those who belong to Christ. Just as Paul and Apollos are servants that the Lord gave to his people, death is a servant for God's people.

Ironically, death is pictured as both an enemy and a servant in this letter. Death is the last enemy to be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26), but it is an enemy who has been stripped of his power. Death is taunted, "*O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?*" (1 Corinthians 15:55). Death can do no harm for those of us who are in Christ. We have gained victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:57). It is as if death has been brought back by Christ, the conquering general, as a captive of war; a conquered enemy who has become a slave forced to serve us.

As our servant, he gives us what we desire the most. It's like we're waiting in a restaurant with an empty stomach craving a delicious meal. As we eagerly anticipate our feast, death approaches us as our waiter bringing us tasty food.

It's like we're in a cramped airport anxiously wanting to leave and go home. Death would be the airplane to take us home. "*We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.*" (2 Corinthians 5:6) Death serves us by taking us away from our mortal bodies to be with the Lord.

Thanks be to God for giving us the victory over death through our Lord Jesus Christ!



Answers from page 1

1. Balaam [Numbers 22:31-33]
2. Saul [1 Samuel 9:1-6]
3. Jacob [Genesis 32:13-18]
4. Moses [Exodus 4:20]

