

SERVICE SCHEDULE for July 26, 2015

Announcements for the Week

Doug Davidson

Morning Service

Evening Service

Prayer- Mark Jones

Prayer- Don Casper

Song Leader- John Paul Baker

Song Leader- Bill McIlvain

Communion:

Comments – Scott Lucas
Communion – Mark Jones

-- **Comments** – Dan Buselmeier

-- **Assisting** – Trey Irvin

-- **Assisting** – Phillip Dorn

-- **Assisting** – Buck Phillips

-- **Assisting** – Gary Goddard

-- **Scripture** – Darryl Griffing

Scripture – Connor LaChappelle

Closing Prayer- Josh Hudson

Closing Prayer- Cliff Davis

Wednesday Night – July 29, 2015

First Prayer- Andy Fuller

Song Leader – Curran LaChappelle

Invitation – Mike Shepherd

Closing Prayer – David Johnson

June 28 Evening Service – Alex Tucker

Upcoming Assignments

August	Communion	Cleaning
2	Stone	Dorn, Irvin, Williams, Griffing, Phillips
9	Phillips	Foxworthy, German, Sollars, Jones, Stewart

Good Thoughts --

“Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.” — William Penn

“Freedom for the wolves has often meant death to the sheep.” -- Isaiah Berlin

“A good act does not wash out the bad, nor a bad act the good. Each should have its own reward.” — George R.R. Martin, A Clash of Kings

“In case of dissension, never dare to judge till you've heard the other side.” — Euripides, The Children of Herakles



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

July 26, 2015

Pertaining To Plants

1. What did Jacob send as a gift to Joseph in Egypt?
2. What massive trees were brought to make the beams and pillars in the Jerusalem temple?
3. What expensive wood is mentioned in the Book of Revelation?
4. What vine is mentioned in the Old Testament as bearing poisonous berries?



Unfruitfulness Is A Symptom

By David Maxson

"As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." [Matthew 13:23]

Unfruitfulness is a symptom of a greater problem. That's the main lesson from the parable of the sower. When we stop bearing fruit in our lives, which is a good indication that we have a heart problem. Something in the soil of our heart is impeding the Word of God.



Unfruitfulness Is A Symptom

Continued

The problem is never with the Word. It always bears fruit given the right conditions. The problem is with the soil of our heart, not the seed.

So are you bearing fruit? You know what the "Fruit of the Spirit" is (Galatians 5).

- Are you showing love to others?
- Is there joy in your life?
- What about peace?
- Are you patient with others?
- Are you kind, good, and faithful?
- What about meek?
- Are you struggling with self-control?

If you're not bearing this fruit in your life, there are three possible reasons:

- Your heart is hard. You've allowed coldness, bitterness, or stubbornness to shut out the Word.
- Your heart is shallow. Your relationship with God is really just about you. You're not seeking God for his sake, but for selfish interests.
- Your heart is distracted. You've allowed other things to take your attention off of God.

Pray to the Lord to help us to be honest with ourselves as we evaluate the fruit we're bearing. We must have the courage to make whatever changes we need to in our hearts.



Many Sparrows

By Joshua Carter

When Jesus sent his apostles out to preach, He warned them that they would be going out into a world that would reject them. They would be like *"sheep in the midst of wolves"* (Matthew 10:16). They would meet people who wouldn't listen to them or receive them. They would be falsely accused of doing wrong. They would be hated. They would even be killed.

Yet, after all of these warnings, Jesus' conclusion to them was not, "So I understand if you're sort of timid about all this." He said, *"So have no fear of them" because they can "kill the body but [they] cannot kill the soul. Rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell"* (Matthew 10:26, 28). That alone should put our fears of evangelism into perspective. If the apostles weren't to fear people who might kill their bodies, what do you think Jesus would say about fearing people who might hurt our feelings?

But there's another aspect to this charge in the subsequent verses, when Jesus explains His reasoning.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father... Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29, 31).

God cares about you. He watches everything that's going on in your life and there is nothing that He doesn't know about. Even the seemingly insignificant sparrows don't escape our Heavenly Father's attention. And you are worth more than many sparrows. You mean a lot to God.

Here's what we need to realize, though- Jesus speaks of not one, but two sparrows. God cares just as much about one of them as He does the other. Neither lives outside of the scope of His concern and neither dies without His knowledge. If you're worth more than many sparrows, so are all the people you're around every day.

Evangelism is where our righteous fear and God's vigilant compassion come together. When we begin to appreciate both aspects of our relationship with the Father, that's when we'll begin to boldly and persistently tell others about the kingdom of heaven. It's not enough to fear God for ourselves. We need to learn to fear God for other people, too. We are not the only ones worth more than many sparrows.



Answers from page 1

1. Almonds [Genesis 43:11]
2. The Cedars of Lebanon [1 Kings 5:6]
3. Thyine [Revelation 18:12]
4. The vine of Sodom [Deuteronomy 32:32]

