

**SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 30, 2015**

Announcements for the Week	Bill McIlvain
<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Evening Service</b>
Prayer- Phillip Dorn	Prayer- Russ Sollars
Song Leader- Marshall Irvin	Song Leader- Various
Communion:	
-- Comments – John Paul Baker	Comments – Buck Phillips
-- Assisting – Darryl Griffing	Communion – Kevin Criswell
-- Assisting – Andrew Johnson	
-- Assisting – John MacQuilliam	
-- Assisting – Jared Davis	
-- Scripture – Gary Goddard	Scripture – Various
Closing Prayer- Buck Phillips	Closing Prayer- Cliff Davis

**Wednesday Night – August 26, 2015**

First Prayer– Andy Fuller  
 Song Leader – Curran LaChappelle  
 Invitation – Mike Shepherd  
 Closing Prayer – David Johnson  
 August 23 Evening Service: Josh Hudson  
 August 30 Evening Song & Scripture Service

**Upcoming Assignments**

September	Communion	Cleaning
6	Sammons	Davidson, K. Hudson, Stone, Denney, Shepherd
13	Irvin	Dobbs, Bailey, Fuller, LaChappelle, Shacklock

**Good Thoughts --**

The only thing you will take through those pearly gates is what you have given away. – Marcia Moore

"To oblige persons often costs little and helps much." -- Gracian, Baltasar

"No man can help another without helping himself." -- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

We will receive not what we idly wish for but what we justly earn. Our rewards will always be in exact proportion to our service. – Earl Nightingale



*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

9441 Bypass, P.O. Box 768, Covington, GA30015 --- [770] 787-1119  
 Elders: Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain  
 Deacons: John Paul Baker, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller,  
 Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

August 23, 2015

*The Lowly Donkey*

1. Who used a donkey to carry the wood he was using to sacrifice his son on?
2. Who sent her servant on a donkey to inform Elisha that her son had died?
3. What prophet predicted that the Messiah would enter in riding on a donkey?
4. What is the only Gospel to mention Jesus' riding on a donkey?



*Joyful Or Miserable?*

By Ron Adams

*"But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed." Romans 6:17*

Some of my most miserable moments in life have been when I was involved in doing what I didn't want to do, participating in what I felt was a waste of time, or doing what I had been "talked into" doing. These feelings are not mine exclusively. No doubt, you can relate to these feelings. And the reason for the misery is obvious: my heart was not in what I was doing.



## Joyful Or Miserable?

Continued

We find happiness in doing what we want to do, when we want to do it, in a way we like to do it. In other words, we are happiest when we fulfill our heart's desire. The good feeling is being produced because we believe that what is being done is important and needful; that it is a good investment of our time and energy.

**The Heart Must Be Involved** -- Unless the heart is involved, one is surely going to be miserable. We feel a lack of joy when we do "what's expected" of us. In order to be happy we must feel good about what we are doing. This is especially true in serving the Lord. Commitment without the heart being involved makes one's participation perfunctory, and as a result one feels miserable. Perfunctory (that is, going through the motions mechanically, routinely) participation may give the appearance of true devotion to Christ, but without the heart being in it, it is just so much activity – a "noisy gong or clanging cymbal." In no way does it benefit the participant. And, in some ways it's even detrimental.

**Heart-less Worship Is Vain** -- Unless, and until, one is motivated by a sincere desire to serve the Lord, religion, church membership, and participation in church activities will be but empty actions. It does not bring peace and contentment, but the very opposite.

Without a sincere desire, assembling with the saints will never be the pleasant, refreshing and invigorating experience the Lord intended it to be. The song service does not lift the spirit. The prayers do not make one feel closer to God. The communion service doesn't produce the true appreciation of Christ's supreme sacrifice or a great expectation of His second coming. The sermon is tolerated as a necessary thing to endure. And the contribution is seen as a necessary "payment."

But with a genuine desire to serve the Lord, participation in these activities become a joyful and meaningful experience. One that leaves the individual better off because he or she has been involved.

**Commands Are Not a Burden** -- The Lord knows that it is absolutely necessary for us to have fellowship with others for support and encouragement, as well as to honor Him and the Father in worship. He has not given the admonition so as to place a burden (obligation) upon us. A Christian whose heart is right sees it for what it really is: a necessary participation that helps one maintain and enhance his faith.

When some find themselves feeling miserable while participating in the things of the Lord, they may decide to stay away. But this only produces guilt. So they are torn between the two: feeling guilty for staying away, or being miserable while participating. The only way to resolve the matter is to have a change of heart. Changing one's thinking. Because that's where the problem lies – in the heart.

Once one has given his or her heart to the Lord, the rest falls into place. Living for the Lord becomes a joyful experience. Church services become a refreshing activity. Commands are seen, not as a burden; but guidelines to aid one in doing what is good and right.

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## Unreliable Foundations For Religious Beliefs

**"I think" – "I feel" – "I imagine" – "My Minister Said"**

*Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. [Colossians 2:7-8]*

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### **Answers from page 1**

1. Abraham [Genesis 22:1-3]
2. The Shunemite woman [2 Kings 4:18-32]
3. Zechariah [Zechariah 9:9]
4. Matthew [Matthew 21:1-9]

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