

SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 13, 2015

Announcements for the Week Andy Fuller
Morning Service
Prayer- Scott Lucas
Song Leader- Andy Dobbs LaChappelle
Communion:
 -- **Comments** – Jason LaChappelle
 -- **Assisting** – Roger German
 -- **Assisting** – John MacQuilliam
 -- **Assisting** – David Johnson
 -- **Assisting** – Jared Davis
 -- **Scripture** – Russ Sollars
Closing Prayer- John Paul Baker Johnson
Evening Service
Prayer- Jason LaChappelle
Song Leader- Doug Davidson
Comments – Buck Phillips
Communion – Darryl Griffing
Scripture – Connor LaChappelle
Closing Prayer- Scott Lucas

Wednesday Night – December 16, 2015

First Prayer- David Johnson
Song Leader – Scott Lucas
Invitation – Russ Sollars
Closing Prayer – Phillip Dorn

December 27 Evening Prayer Service

Upcoming Assignments

December	Communion	Cleaning
20	C. Stewart	Foxworthy, German, Sollars, Jones, Stewart
27	Goddard	McIlvain, Tucker, Ferrell, Criswell, Davis

Good Thoughts --

Allow yourself to think only those thoughts that match your principles and can bear the bright light of day. Day by day, your choices, your thoughts, your actions fashion the person you become. Your integrity determines your destiny. — Heraclitus

Be happy, noble heart, be blessed for all the good thou hast done and wilt do hereafter, and let my gratitude remain in obscurity like your good deeds. — Alexandre Dumas, The Count of Monte Cristo



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

Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com

Covington Church of Christ

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Elders: Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain

Deacons: John Paul Baker, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller, Jason LaChappelle

December 13, 2015

Lambs

1. What almost-slaughtered son asked his father, “Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?”
2. Who said, “Behold, the lamb of God”?
3. What prophet told David a tale about a man with one lamb?
4. What foreign traveler was reading a passage about the Messiah being like a sheep for the slaughter?



It's Christmas Time

Every year after Thanksgiving, most people's thoughts turn to Christmas. It is the time when professing Christians are supposed to focus on Jesus Christ. After all, it is the “Christmas” season!

Christmas is thought by most to be a wonderful time, focusing the participants on giving, family togetherness, beautiful music and decorations, feasting on special foods and singing Christmas carols. All of this is supposedly centered on the worship of the Christ. Surely the Bible instructs us to do all this—right?



It's Christmas Time

Continued

Why do people think that Christmas is wonderful? Most never reflect on why they believe what they believe or do what they do. We live in a world filled with customs. We generally accept them without question. Most people basically do what everyone else does—because it is easy and natural!

Nearly all aspects of Christmas observance have their roots in Roman custom and religion. Consider the following admission from a large American newspaper:

(The Buffalo News, Nov. 22, 1984): "The earliest reference to Christmas being marked on Dec. 25 comes from the second century after Jesus' birth. It is considered likely the first Christmas celebrations were in reaction to the Roman Saturnalia, a harvest festival that marked the winter solstice—the return of the sun—and honored Saturn, the god of sowing. Saturnalia was a rowdy time, much opposed by the more austere leaders among the still-minority Christian sect. Christmas developed, one scholar says, as a means of replacing worship of the sun with worship of the Son. By 529 A.D., after Christianity had become the official state religion of the Roman Empire, Emperor Justinian made Christmas a civic holiday. The celebration of Christmas reached its peak—some would say its worst moments—in the medieval period when it became a time for conspicuous consumption and unequalled revelry."

It was 300 years after Christ before the Roman church kept Christmas, and not until the fifth century that it was mandated to be kept throughout the empire as an official festival honoring "Christ."

Merchants regularly report that over 60% of their annual retail sales occur during the Christmas shopping season. This represents a tremendous amount of gift buying. Most today believe that gift-giving comes from the Bible example of the "three wise men" (the Bible gives no number) presenting gifts to Christ. The distinction is that gifts were always presented to Kings, but never in an exchange among themselves. Just follow the money!

The Forbidden Rooms Of The Heart

By David Maxson

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. [Revelation 3:20]

When we invite guests to stay in our homes we want them to feel at home. We tell them they are welcome to use anything they need. We want them to feel comfortable and at home.

Though we say we want them to treat our house as their house, we don't always open up every room for them. Sometimes we close off certain rooms or areas of our house. It may be because there are personal things in there or there might be things we don't want them to see. Whatever the reason, we close off certain rooms to our guests.

Our heart is like a big house with many rooms in it. When we come to the Lord we are inviting him to dwell in our heart. He is not an ordinary friend or acquaintance to us but a special guest. More than anyone, we want him to feel at home in our heart.

However, we sometimes close off rooms to Jesus. We have things we don't want him to see. There are parts of our life that we don't want him to change. We have bitterness, malice, or envy toward a rival. We might be harboring an unforgiving spirit. We are chained to an addiction battling with drugs or alcohol or pornography. We have an illicit relationship we are keeping to ourselves.

But this won't work with Jesus. He will either dwell in all of the rooms of our heart, or he won't stay at all. That's why the apostle Paul said, *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."* (Galatians 2:20)

So what have we closed off to him? He's standing outside knocking... Ask the Lord to help us to love Him and value Him more than anything we might try to hide or keep from private. We need the faith and the courage to open every last door in our hearts!



Answers from page 1

1. Isaac [Genesis 22:7]
2. John the Baptist [John 1:29]
3. Nathan [2 Samuel 12:1-7]
4. The Ethiopian eunuch [Acts 8:27-35]

