**SERVICE SCHEDULE for September 15, 2019**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Andy Fuller **Prayer-** Andy Fuller

**Song Leader-** Jason LaChappelle **Song Leader-** Buck Phillips

**Communion:**

**-- Comments –** Buck Phillips **Comments –** Jason LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Darryl Griffing **Communion –** Darryl Griffing

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** David Johnson

**-- Scripture –** Connor LaChappelle **Scripture –** Dan Woodward

**Closing Prayer-** Dan Woodward **Closing Prayer-** Don Casper

**Wednesday Night – September 18, 2019**

**First Prayer–** Lucien Griffing

**Song Leader –** Roger German

**Invitation –** Jason LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer –** Darryl Griffing

**September 29 Evening Scripture & Song Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **September** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **15** | Bailey | Please Be Considerate |
| **22** | Campbell | Clean the area around your seat before leaving |

**Good Thoughts-- Unreliable Foundations For One’s 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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***Schedule of Services***

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.**

**Wi-Fi Password: church1234**

**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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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

**Deacons: Cliff Davis, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**September 15, 2019**

***Fasting & Praying***

1. Who proclaimed a day of fasting as a part of the scheme to get Naboth’s vineyard?

2. Who was Paul waiting for while he fasted three days in Damascus?

3. What official in the Persian court fasted before presenting his case to the king”?

4. Who fasted and wore sackcloth as he prayed for the liberation of his people from Persia?

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***You Are A Minister Too***

**By Rick Liggin**

It's a sad, but undeniable fact, that the religious world around us has had its influence on the Lord's church. It's downright frightening to see how many Christians have adopted denominational concepts and denominational terminology. This may not seem to be such a terrible thing to us at first, but when we remember that apostasy most often comes in short, subtle steps, we begin to see the very real threat.

To illustrate just one way we have been influenced by denominational religion, consider our use of the term "minister." Denominationalists most often use this word exclusively in reference to those they consider to be members of the "clergy." It is one of their official titles for preachers.

***You Are A Minister Too***

**Continued**

But denominationalists are not the only ones who use the word like this. Members of the Lord's church refer to gospel preachers in this same way! It is not uncommon to hear a Christian introduce a preacher as "the minister of our (?) church." Now, there really is nothing wrong with referring to a preacher as a "minister," since that accurately describes him; but when we reserve this term exclusively for those who preach, we misuse it. And more importantly, we miss a vital point about our work as saints.

The Greek word most often translated "minister" in the New Testament is diakonos. This word refers to ***"one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master" (Thayer, p. 138),*** and it is used in the New Testament to refer to several different kinds of workers or servants. Preachers are certainly called "ministers" (1 Timothy 4:6; 1 Corinthians 3:5), but so are civil authorities ***(Romans 13:4)*** ***For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.***

Satan's helpers are called ministers. ***(2 Corinthians 11:14-15)*** ***And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*** ***15Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.***

In Romans 15:8 we find that Jesus was a minister. ***Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers,***

In fact, all followers of Christ, including female disciples, are diakonos (ministers or servants—Matthew 20:26; 23:11; John 12:26; Romans 16:1).

There is even a special class of diakonos, translated "deacons" in (1 Timothy 3:8-13) who have a specific function in the local church, but even here the reference is clearly not to those who are preachers. The point that should be obvious by now is that the term "minister" simply is not used in the New Testament to refer exclusively to gospel preachers. We can scold the Mormons for their misuse of "elder" and we can rebuke the denominations for their abuse of "pastor," but if we are not careful we misuse the word "minister."

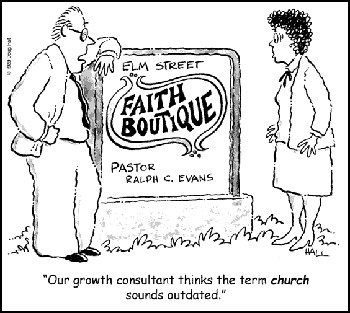
We would like to encourage all to be careful not to misuse the word, but this is not the most important point of our article. The important point is that we all understand that every child of God is a minister! The one who gives his full time to the work of preaching is not the minister of the local church. He is a minister, but so is every other Christian. This is a lesson that must be learned, accepted, and practiced by every true disciple of Jesus. Our Lord taught: ***"One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers" (Matthew 23:8,11).*** All of us are servants of the Lord--and of each other!

We have come to treat preachers as though they actually are members of some "clergy." Instead of each disciple being a servant or minister, we pay preachers to do our work for us. Please realize that you, in a very real sense, are a minister; and as such, you need to be about the business of ministering!

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***Should We Be Adapting To The Times?***

**It is safer to adapt to the Lord’s word.**



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**Answers from page 1**

1. Jezebel [1 Kings 21:8-10]

2. Ananias [Acts 9:9]

3. Nehemiah [Nehemiah 1:1-4]

4. Daniel [Daniel 9:3:4]

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