**SERVICE SCHEDULE for October 6, 2019**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Darryl Griffing **Prayer-** Andy Fuller

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

**Communion:**

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

**-- Assisting –** Josiah Phillips **Communion –** Darryl Griffing

**-- Assisting –** Lucien Griffing

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** Dean Shacklock **Scripture –** Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer-** Cliff Davis **Closing Prayer-** Don Casper

**Wednesday Night – October 9, 2019**

**First Prayer–** Connor LaChappelle

**Song Leader –** Don Casper

**Invitation –** Darryl Griffing

**Closing Prayer –** David Johnson

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **October** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **6** | Dorn | We urge everyone to check your pew area and |
| **13** | Woodward | Pick up any loose papers, wrappers, etc. |

**Good Thoughts --**

**Good intentions that never produce action are worthless. The smallest deed is better than the grandest intention. One cannot build a reputation on intentions; it is built on actions. When actions are not the same as intentions, the problem can be traced to character! It's inconsistent to judge yourself by your best intentions and others by their worst actions. —Ron Adams**

**The only way to practicalize your love for God is by helping and loving others ― Sunday Adelaja**

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***Schedule of Services***

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

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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**October 6, 2019**

***Fasting & Prayer***

1. What church’s elders fasted before sending Paul and Barnabas out as missionaries?

2. Where were the Israelites when Samuel had them fasting because of their idolatry?

3. In what country were the Hebrews when they fasted after learning of an executive order to have them all killed?

4. After Ezra had read the law to the people, what was the main sin that caused them to fast?

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***Stumbling Blocks***

**By Jim Jonas**

Conscientious people worry about impeding the progress of others toward heaven. Foolish things are sometimes done which bring reproach upon the name of Christ and give God’s enemies an opportunity to blaspheme (Rom 2:24; 2 Pet 2:2).

 Perhaps we should pray that, wherein we stand guilty of such, God will provide other godly influences in the lives of those people whom we have failed.

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***Stumbling Blocks***

**Continued**

David in the 69th Psalm has similar concerns. He is in great distress from his enemies (69:1-4), and the turmoil makes him painfully conscious of his sin (69:5).

With the weight of the entire nation upon him, David prays ***(69:6): “Let not those who wait for You, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed because of me; Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.”*** Men pray thus when they have the burden of the welfare of souls on their heart.

Conversely, when men do not have the “welfare of souls on their heart,” they thoughtlessly do things which interfere with the spiritual progress of others. They seem to have little concern for the negative influence they exert upon others by their words and actions.

This is the most puzzling – and inexcusable – when parents are stumbling blocks to their own children. Parents who are unwilling to attend Bible study or find 1001 excuses to miss worship teach their children that such activities are not very important.

But that is mild compared to what some parents do. I have known of a mother and daughter “dating duo” to go nightclubbing while their husband/father was working 24-hour shifts at the fire department. They would even bring their dates to the house while the man was on duty. One such occasion led to a confrontation in which the daughter stabbed her father in the neck with a knife.

Some parents buy booze for their kids, procure abortions for their daughters, attack school officials for disciplining their little darlings and otherwise teach their children to be irresponsible and immoral.

The problem often is that children are raising children. Many parents are selfish, emotionally unstable and weak in character and thus do not know how to instill the higher qualities of godliness in their children. This surely is a sign of a society in decline.

If we decide to throw our own souls away, God certainly gives us that “right.” But some people have so little conscience as to take their children with them.

***Total Renovation***

**By David Maxson**

***For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... [Ephesians 3:14, 17]***

A young couple buys their first home, a "fixer upper." They take care of urgent problems first: replacing the roof, leaky pipes, etc. They proceed to pull down old wall paper and replace the dingy carpet. They repaint many of the rooms and even reconfigure some rooms by tearing down walls. They overhaul the landscaping.

Over time, an eyesore is transformed into a dream home. There were few things that they liked about the house when they bought it (except the price), but now it is a place they love to show off to family and friends. After years of hard labor, it is finally their home, every last room reflects their style and personality.

This is a picture of us. God bought us when we were worthless (1 Peter 1:18-19; Titus 3:3) and Christ has made us His own (Philippians 3:12). He moved into our hearts with a sledge hammer in hand to tear out all that was corrupt and to rebuild us into His own image (Colossians 3:5-11).

This renovation is a slow gradual process that lasts a lifetime, and the more we are changed, the more Christ makes our hearts his home (John 14:23). The more we are transformed into His image, the more we bring honor to God (Ephesians 3:20-21).

The transformation will not be complete until the resurrection (Philippians 3:21), and it is this hope that drives us to dismantle every last part of self so that Christ might take its place (Galatians 2:20; 1 John 3:1-3).

O Father, we thank You for purchasing us at great cost and for beginning this work on us. We pray you will demolish all selfishness and pride in us, remaking us into the perfect image of Your Son.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Antioch’s [Acts 13:1-3]

2. Mizpah [1 Samuel 7:3-6]

3. Persia [Esther 4:1-3, 15-16]

4. Marrying foreigners [Nehemiah 9:1-3]

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