**SERVICE SCHEDULE for February 2, 2019**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Cliff Davis **Prayer-** Andy Fuller

**Song Leader-** Brandon Esque **Song Leader-** Cliff Davis

**Communion:**

**-- Comments –** Buck Phillips **Comments –** Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Andy Fuller **Communion –** Connor LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** David Johnson

**-- Assisting –** Scott Lucas

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Scripture –** Gary Goddard **Scripture –** Jared Davis

**Closing Prayer-** Ron Bailey **Closing Prayer-** Mark Tally

**Wednesday Night – February 5, 2019**

**First Prayer–** Mark Tally

**Song Leader –** Connor LaChappelle

**Invitation –** Cliff Davis

**Closing Prayer –** Phillip Dorn

**February 26 Evening Service** – Connor LaChappelle

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **February** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **2** | Davis | McIlvain, Ferrell, Tucker, Criswell, Davis |
| **9** | Tally | Johnson, Baker, Goddard, Land, H. Hudson |

**Good Thoughts --**

**Waste no more time arguing about what a good man should be. Be one. ― Marcus Aurelius, Meditations**

**Sooner or later every believer faces a danger. It doesn’t happen overnight; often it occurs slowly. Do you know what the dangerous situation is?  The danger is believers starting to feel at home in this world. We slowly begin to think like the world and even act as the world. There’s a big difference between being *IN* and *NOT OF* the world. – Mike Peck**

**Integrity has no need of rules. ― Albert Camus**

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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**

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**9441 Bypass, P.O. Box 768, Covington, GA30015 --- [770] 787-1119**

**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**February 2, 2019**

***A Time To Weep***

1. Who wept at thinking her son would die of thirst in the desert?

2. Who wept over the death of his rebellious son, Absalom?

3. What Old Testament woman is pictured as “weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted”?

4. At whose death did Abraham weep?

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***Without Wax***

**By Bobby K Thompson**

A number of our English words have been derived from Latin words. Several years ago, a very devoted Christian and excellent Latin teacher, Mary Jane Bickley, related to me the etymology of the word “sincere”. She mentioned that it is from the Latin word “sincerus” and has the literal meaning “without wax”.

In the days of the Roman Empire, sculptors were very much in demand. As in most professions, there were some sculptors who were not as honest and trustworthy as they should have been. When a flaw appeared in their work, rather than make a proper correction or to start anew with the production, wax was often placed in the flaw to cover the error or mistake.

***Without Wax***

**Continued**

This usually did not appear until later when the elements melted the wax and the glaring imperfection was revealed. In an effort to prevent such deceit, contracts for sculptures would include the word “sincerus” which meant it would be unlawful for wax to be used in the production of the stature or figure. The word sincere is defined: “Free from pretense or deceit; genuine, real, honest”. The sincere person is genuine and without wax as conveyed in the original meaning of the word. I have always treasured this story when thinking of the word sincere.

A sincere person is to be admired. Everyone should strive to be sincere and free of hypocrisy. Hypocrisy might be said to be the antithesis of sincerity. Sincere, sincerity and sincerely are found nine times in the King James Version of the New Testament scriptures. Paul’s prayer for the Philippians was: ***“And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;” (Philippians 1:9-10).*** To be “sincere and without offence till the day of Christ” is the great challenge that confronts every child of God.

**The Sincere Person Is One Who Will:**

**Be open minded.** ***“He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him. (Proverbs 18:13).*** The wise man is speaking of a man who lacks sincerity. Those to whom Stephen preached were not without wax. ***“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,” (Acts 7:57).*** They stopped their ears and refused to be open-minded. Nicodemus pleaded with his countrymen, who were seeking to arrest Jesus, to show sincerity when he asked: ***“Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?” (John 7:51).*** The sincere person may not, on every occasion, agree with what is said, but he is open minded in considering what is said.

**Investigate**. The noble Bereans were evidently sincere in their actions and they were not afraid to investigate in order to determine “whether those things were so”. **(Acts 17:11).** God’s people are called upon to ***“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”. (I Thessalonians 5:21).*** How can one truly know what is good if investigation is ignored? Much of the same thought is found in the words of John: “***Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” (I John 4:1).*** The sincere person does not object to what he teaches being tried by the scriptures and he is also alert to trying what others are teaching. ***“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” (II Corinthians 2:17).***

**Change when wrong.**

Sincerity has motivated all of us to change our lives. Through hearing the preaching of truth, we came to realize our sinfulness and that we needed to obey the gospel of Christ. This change was not without cost, but sincerity demanded it! There was no alternative if we hoped to be right with Christ and live with Him in eternity. Even after becoming Christians, there were times when we were found to be wrong and sincerity caused us to change. The book of Acts reveals individuals hearing the gospel and changing from error to truth. Among others, we think of the Ethiopian Eunuch **(Acts 8)** and Lydia **(Acts 16).** There were also those who denied sincerity and chose to reject the gospel. **(Acts 13:45-46).** Without wax meant nothing to them!

**Place truth first in their lives.** ***“Buy the truth and sell it not” (Proverbs 23:23).*** When we place other endeavors before obeying the truth, our sincerity is certainly in question. ***“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:” (I Peter 2:2).*** Paul admonished the Corinthians to ***“prove the sincerity of your love”. (II Corinthians 8:9).*** When we do the commandments of the Lord and place them first in our lives, we can prove the sincerity of our love for the truth. Paul spoke of some preaching Christ without sincerity **(Philippians 1:15).** May this never be our manner of life!!

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Hagar, mother of Ishmael [Genesis 21:16]

2. David [2 Samuel 18:33]

3. Rachel [Jeremiah 31:15]

4. Sarah [Genesis 23:2]

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