**SERVICE SCHEDULE for November 24, 2019**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Darryl Griffing **Prayer-** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader-** Scott Lucas **Song Leader-** Cliff Davis

**Communion:**

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

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque **Communion –** Roger German

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Connor LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** John MacQuilliam

**-- Scripture –** Cliff Davis **Scripture –** Ron Bailey

**Closing Prayer-** Andy Fuller **Closing Prayer-** Jared Davis

**Wednesday Night – November 27, 2019**

**First Prayer–** Jared Davis

**Song Leader –** Connor LaChappelle

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer –** Cliff Davis

**November 24 Evening Service – Erik Bourlog**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **November** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **24** | A. Griffing | Take the time to police your area before you go. |
| **24** | A. Griffing | Cheerios and other cereals can draw ants. |

**Preaching For The Next 2 Weeks --**

**While Bill is away, we will be having 2 guest speakers. Erik Bourlog and Richard Boone will be presenting lessons and Jason LaChappelle will also be bringing a lesson.**

**Erik is one of the preachers at Embry Hills and Richard had been preaching and went back to secular work. Now he is wanting to “get back in the saddle” again. Buck Phillips has known him for a long time and Richard has been visiting with us from time to time, so you may recognize him when he comes.**

**Let’s do our best to welcome them.**

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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 Davin, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**November 24, 2019**

***Cave Dwellers***

1. Who hid a hundred prophets in a cave when Jezebel was trying to kill them?

2. Who was buried in the cave of Machpelah?

3. Who hid in a cave while God passed by?

4. What hero hid in caves to avoid the wrath of Saul?

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***Addiction***

**By Phil T. Arnold**

***“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any” (1 Corinthians. 6:12).***

Are all things truly "lawful"? Of course not! There are some things that God has forbidden under any and all circumstances. ***"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21).***

***Addiction***

**Continued…**

Therefore, the statement must be reexamined in the light of the context and the "all things" must be found to have some limitation***…"but all things are not helpful" or "expedient" (KJV).***

There are also things which are lawful, and that is those things which God has bound upon man. ***"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).*** Is there ever a time or circumstance when those characteristics are not "helpful" or "expedient"? Again, we must answer in the negative.

Thus, we are left with only one category of things under consideration - those things which are matters of indifference to God; matters which God allows but does not obligate man to do.

For example, marriage: God allows us to marry but he has not commanded us to do so. Therefore, it is something that is lawful, but may not prove to be "helpful" or expedient under a given circumstance.

Another example is playing baseball: God would allow us to play baseball but it may not be "helpful" or expedient under all circumstances, and he certainly has not commanded that we "must" play baseball to be acceptable to him.

In 1 Corinthians the matter of eating meats was a matter of indifference to God. Paul determined that if the eating of meat was not spiritually profitable, he would never eat meat again (see 1 Corinthians 8).

In addition, we are given a second principle to "expediency" or "helpfulness" for making such choices among "all things" of moral neutrality. Paul suggested, ***"I will not be brought under the power of any."*** We all are perhaps "creatures of habit" but none of us can afford to allow a "habit" to become an "addiction."

"Gluttony" (the failure to be in control of one's appetites) is forbidden in any realm. Peter wrote, ***'for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage" (2 Peter 2:19b).*** Another passage says, ***"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16)*** We can never allow ourselves to become a "slave" to any habit or practice even of moral neutrality. When we do, we lose our ability to practice the first principle.

We will no longer be able to determine when a matter of liberty is or is not expedient or helpful. Being enslaved, we will be powerless to say "no." Later in ***1 Corinthians 9:27,*** Paul said, ***"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified."*** This is not here speaking of staying away from evil things or things forbidden by God, but instead, staying away from lawful things.

Use the illustration of an athlete in 1 Corinthians 9:24-26. Just as an athlete chooses to abstain from many good and right things to keep himself in training and strive for the prize, so too the Christian must exercise control over his desires. We must always be in a position to be able to say "no" concerning anything of moral neutrality or liberty. When a Christian clutches to his "liberty" too tightly it becomes his lord. And for a Christian to be overpowered by any custom or habit or practice, no matter what it is, is sin.

Is there anything in your life that is your habit or practice and it really is not helpful or expedient to serving the Lord and living for him under the present circumstances? Why then does it continue to be your habit or practice? Or do you continue in the practice because the "liberty" has become an "addiction" and is stronger than you are? Recognize that such enslavement is sin. Give the matter over to the Lord and let him and your brethren help you to become "disciplined" so as to deny self. "***But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you become slaves of righteousness" (Romans 6:17,18).***

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Obadiah [1 Kings 18:4]

2. Sarah, Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, Leah, & Jacob [Genesis 23:19]

3. Moses [Exodus 33:21-23]

4. David [1 Samuel 22:1-2, 23:14 & 29]

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