**SERVICE SCHEDULE for July 12, 2020**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Cliff Davis **Prayer-** Darryl Griffing

**Song Leader-** Roger German **Song Leader-** Cliff Davis

**-- Comments –** Mark Tally **Comments –** Brandon Esque

-- **Assisting –** John MacQuilliam **Communion –** Lucian Griffing

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Curran LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** Eli Hickey **Scripture –** Jared Davis

**Closing Prayer-** Buck Phillips **Closing Prayer-** Mark Tally

**Wednesday Night – July 15, 2020**

**First Prayer–** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader –** Roger German

**Invitation –** Darryl Griffing

**Closing Prayer –** Jared Davis

**July 29 Evening Service** – Connor LaChappelle

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **July** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **12** | Williams | Take the time to police your area before you go. |
| **19** | Davis | Cheerios and other cereals can draw ants. |

**Take Note**

**The Bible Classes have been a vital part of our local work here. Our appreciation goes to the teachers who selflessly devote to their students.**

**Work has commenced on the stage area. A special Thank You goes to the efforts of the men who worked yesterday to do the demo work. Lord willing, we will continue the work next Saturday.**

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**Live connection starting 9AM. CALL (678) 701-5124 Enter PIN: 1234**

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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**

**Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com**



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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**July 12, 2020**

***Laughing Matters***

1. Who had his decree for a Passover celebration laughed at by the men of Israel?

2. What is the only book in the Bible to mention God laughing?

3. What epistle tells Christian to turn their laugher to mourning?

4. What old woman said, “God hath made me to laugh so that all who hear will laugh with me”?

5. Who told Job that God would certainly fill a righteous man with laugher?

6. According to Psalm 126, what caused laughter among the Israelites?

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***English Bible History***

It took many years for the King James Version to overtake the Geneva Bible in popularity with the people, but eventually the King James Version became the Bible of the English people. It became the most printed book in the history of the world. In fact, for around 250 years until the appearance of the Revised Version of 1881, the King James Version reigned without a rival.

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***Restoration Now***

**By Andy Diestelkamp**

Great cynicism has been expressed about our willingness as humans to learn from the past and its mistakes. George Santayana warned, *"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."* G. W. F. Hegel put it bluntly, *"We learn from history that we do not learn from history."* A quote from Will Durant explains why this is. *"We spend too much time on the last twenty-four hours and too little on the last six thousand years."*

Since the first century those who have professed to be Christians have had to deal with issues (just read 1 Corinthians). The first churches had internal squabbles and doctrinal disagreements, and we are not immune from such. Everything from worldliness to traditions have a great impact on how we think and reason and even how we read Scripture. This in turn affects how professing Christians and the churches of which they are a part act. It doesn't take but one generation of warped thinking to produce apostasies.

Historical texts are full of examples of these digressions from doing the will of God to doing the will of man. Occasionally some will awaken to the drifting that has occurred and attempt to restore the original ways. The implication that we have drifted doesn't sit well with most people, especially with those who, like Pilate, question if there is such a thing as truth.

Restoration is a dominant theme throughout the Bible. In Genesis 3 when sin caused man to be denied access to the tree of life, God's word points us to the hope of that access being restored (Rev. 2:7; 22:14). The message of Scripture is that man is the consummate sinner and God the ultimate restorer (Job 33:26-30). God offers restoration, but He does not force it. This truth comes through clearly in God's dealings with His chosen people of the Old Testament, the Israelites (Is. 42:21-25). When sin has overtaken a people, someone needs to cry out for restoration and deliverance. It is against God that we sin, and, thus, restoration must involve a return to His ways and obedience to His will. This is no less true today.

The basis for restoration is not what we think would be best. We are the sinners. We are the ones who have broken fellowship with God. The solution to the problem cannot come from us (Prov. 14:12; 16:25; Jer. 10:23). This does not mean that we have no ability to choose to do right, but that the correct way of life is not of human origin. What is right, true, and correct is determined only by God.

Another dominant theme in Scripture is the need to base restoration on a divine pattern. Again, God illustrated this for us in His dealings with the Israelite nation. Read Exodus 25:9,40; 26:1,7,11,30, and note the details! Could these be ignored? Of course, Israel fell away several times and neglected the temple and the law. When men set their minds on restoration, they were not at liberty to do it just any way their hearts desired (2 Chron. 24:1-4,12,13). Going back to the original is what restoration is all about.

The Mosaic covenant was a copy and shadow of heavenly things (Heb. 8:1-6). Though it is now obsolete (vs. 13), we can see why so much emphasis was placed upon following the pattern. Now that we are under a better covenant established on better promises, it would seem that faithfulness to the revealed pattern would be all the more important.

Many churches are following popular opinion and are more concerned with pleasing men than with pleasing God. Political correctness appears to be more important than scriptural correctness. Believers, it is time for restoration. Let us throw off the creeds and traditions of men and get back to the pattern of sound words (2 Tim. 1:13,14).

This restoration call has not resonated well in our current culture. This call is not just for other churches. It is a call for us. With each generation comes the need to point back to the pattern of God's word. If we fail to do this, then before you know it we will have raised up a generation that may be religious and following patterns, but not divine patterns. Restoration never stops! It must continue with each successive generation.

If we expect others to be willing to restudy and reevaluate their faithfulness to the divine pattern, then we must be willing to do the same with every doctrine and practice. Failure to do this will just lead us into doctrines of men, human creeds, and the elevation of our traditions over the commandments of God. It happened to Israel. It happened to the Pharisees. It even happened to those who named Jesus as Lord. If it could happen to them, it can happen to us. Therefore, we need to be diligent to present ourselves to God as workers who need not be ashamed (2 Tim. 2:15).

Are we willing to restudy and restore and then reject any traditions that hinder restoration, or are we content to simply be part of the Church of Christ denomination that has its roots in the American Restoration Movement?

Are we going to take the course that the so-called Disciples of Christ took and the Christian Church is taking? No, thank you! True churches belonging to Christ will be content to align themselves with Scripture and feel no loyalty to anything or anyone other than Jesus.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Hezekiah [2 Chronicles 30:5 & 10]

2. Psalms [Psalms 2:4; 37:13; 59:8]

3. James [James 4:9]

4. Sarah [Genesis 21:6]

5. Bildad [Job 8:21]

6. Bringing the captives back to Jerusalem [Psalm 126:2]

7. Abraham [Genesis 17:17]

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