**SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 9, 2020**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Cliff Davis **Prayer-** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader-** Roger German **Song Leader-** Jason LaChappelle

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

-- **Assisting –** Dean Shacklock **Communion –** Connor L.

**-- Assisting –** Curran LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** John MacQuilliam

**-- Scripture –** Connor LaChappelle **Scripture –** Jared Davis

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

**Wednesday Night – August 12, 2020**

**First Prayer–** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader –** Mark Tally

**Invitation –** Darryl Griffing

**Closing Prayer –** Jared Davis

**August 23 Evening Service** – Buck Phillips

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **August** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **9** | German | Take the time to police your area before you go. |
| **16** | Johnson | 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 are working on this project. Lord willing, we will continue the work next Saturday.**

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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**

**August 9, 2020**

***Physical Ailments***

1. What man was healed of dysentery by Paul?

2. Who healed Aeneas of paralysis?

3. What was the affliction of the man let down through a roof by his friends

4. What did Moses toss in the air to produce boils on the Egyptians?

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***What If…?***

**By Marc Gibson**

Have you ever wondered about what would have happened in a situation if the circumstances or decisions made would have been different? Do you sometimes ask the questions “What if so and so had done this rather than that?” or “What if this had happened instead of that?” It can be dangerous at times to think about situations over which we have no control. But there are times in which asking “What if…” could make an important point.

Making excuses is a very real temptation for all of us. If we get caught in a situation we should not be in or fail to do what we should have done, we can begin to make excuses to justify our action or non-action. We all have used excuses at one time or another. The more excuses one makes, the easier and more elaborate they become.

***What If…?***

**Continued**

Making excuses reveals that we are afraid to face the reality of the situation. This should not be characteristic of the humble and contrite heart.

In the Bible we read many accounts of the faith and obedience of men and women. Their stories are sources of inspiration and learning. But what if these same people had made excuses? Would we be reading of their great faith and work for the Lord? Consider some sobering examples:

**WHAT IF** *Noah* had said, ***“I’m not getting any results converting people. I think I will just quit”?*** We are told in the Bible that only eight people were saved in the ark, Noah and his family (Genesis 6-8). Noah was a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5) yet saved only his household. He did not give up, though. He completed the ark and was saved from the flood. Had he given up, he would have been destroyed along with the rest of the wicked world. What kept Noah from making excuses was his “godly fear” (Hebrews 11:7). If we fear God and keep his commandments, we will not have the time nor desire to make excuses.

**WHAT IF** *John the Baptist* had said, ***“I can’t worship and work for the Lord because I don’t have any decent clothes to wear”?*** John the Baptist was clothed “in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist” (Matthew 3:4). A coat of camel’s hair was not standard dress for religious folks in that day or in ours. We should try to look our best when worshiping God and be decent and modest when teaching others. But refusing to go to services or to do the Lord’s work because we do not have clothes as nice as someone else or the latest fashion design is a poor excuse and reveals our real priorities. If John the Baptist had made such an excuse, think of how many would not have come to repentance due to his preaching (Matthew 3:5-6).

**WHAT IF** *David* had said, ***“I am too young to do anything about Goliath. Besides, Saul’s armor doesn’t fit me and the older soldiers are far more experienced”?*** Fortunately for the fearful army of Israel, David did not make such excuses and proceeded to put his faith in God and kill Goliath (1 Samuel 17). Even Goliath thought David was too young (v. 42). He and the others learned that age does not limit the ability of God to use anyone for His service.

**WHAT IF** *Moses* had said, ***“I’m too old to lead the people of God out of Egypt. Get someone younger”?*** Moses was 80 years old when God asked him to lead His people to the land of promise. In fact, Moses did make some excuses why he was not God’s man for the job (Exodus 3-4). God would not accept any of them. Moses could do the job! There is no shame in being older (or younger) in years, only when it is used as an excuse to avoid doing what could be done. No matter what our age and ability, God can use us in His kingdom.

**WHAT IF** *Mary* had said, ***“I need to be helping Martha with serving. I don’t have time to hear what Jesus says”?*** If she had made this excuse, she would have received the same humbling words of rebuke Jesus spoke to Martha: ***“Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:41-42).*** The time will come when we will need to put down the cooking utensils, turn off the television, close that novel, interrupt our visit with company, and go to worship and the work of the Lord. Let us choose the good part and leave our worries and secular activities behind.

Aren’t you glad that these godly people didn’t use such excuses? Now, do you?

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***Beauty***

**By Martin Buxbaum**

Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty – thy merely move it from their faces into their hearts.

God determines who walks into your life; it's up to you to decide who you let walk away, who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go. When there is nothing left but God, then that is when you find out that God is all you need.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Publias’s father [Acts 28:8]

2. Peter [Acts 9:33]

3. Paralysis [Luke 5:18]

4. Ashes [Exodus 9:9-10]

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