**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 13, 2020**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Roger German **Song Leader-** Mark Tally

**Communion:**

**-- Comments –** Buck Phillips **Comments –** Andy Fuller

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock **Communion –** Phillip Dorn

**-- Assisting –** Curran LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** John MacQuilliam

**-- Scripture –** Lucian Griffing **Scripture –** Jared Davis

**Closing Prayer -** Ben Wofford **Closing Prayer-** John MacQuilliam

**Wednesday Night – December 16, 2020**

**First Prayer –** Connor LaChappelle

**Song Leader –** Jason LaChappelle

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer –** Cliff Davis

**December 27 Evening Prayer & Song Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **13** | Woodward | Take the time to police your area before you go. |
| **20** | Tucker | Cheerios and other cereals can draw ants. |

**Good Thoughts --**

**On the way to Bible Class, the father decided to put little Johnny to the test. Giving him a dollar and a quarter, he told Johnny to keep one and put the other in the offering. After church the father found that Johnny had put the quarter in the offering.**

**He gave this explanation: "Dad, God loves a cheerful giver, and I found that I could give the quarter more cheerfully than the dollar!"**

**It is the wretchedness of being rich that you have to live with rich people. -- Logan Pearsall Smith**

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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 Davis, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**December 13, 2020**

***Torn Clothing***

1. What two men tore their clothes when the Israelites murmured against the Lord about going into Canaan?

2. Who rent his clothes when he heard Absalom had taken revenge on Amnon?

3. What leper’s plea for a cure caused the king of Israel to tear his clothes?

4. What friend of David, loyal during Absalom’s rebellion, met David with torn robe and ashes on his head?

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***A Famine in the Midst of Plenty***

**By Randy Hohf**

Amos 8.11-12 says, ***“’Behold, days are coming,’ declares the Lord God, ‘When I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine for bread or thirst for water, but rather for hearing the words of the Lord. People will stagger from sea to sea and from the north even to the east; they will go to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, but they will not find it.’”***  There is irony in these words when we compare them to our day. Probably what God is saying through Amos is that he will withdraw his prophets, so that there will be no word from the Lord when the people are in distress. 

***A Famine in the Midst of Plenty***

**Continued**

***[1 Samuel 3:1]*** ***And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.***  The people will long for a word from God, and will “stagger from sea to sea” looking for it as starving people searching for food, but there will only be silence. Their former failure to listen to and heed God’s word caused God to stop casting his pearls before swine, so-to-speak.

The ironic thing for us, however, is that we live in the exact opposite sort of situation, at least here in America. We have the word of God everywhere. We don’t have to wait for God to send a prophet to our town, nor do we have to share portions of unwieldy and expensive scrolls in order to read the word of God. On the contrary, we have the entire, completed and confirmed word of God compiled in a single book, the Bible. And Bibles are more readily available than at any time in history.

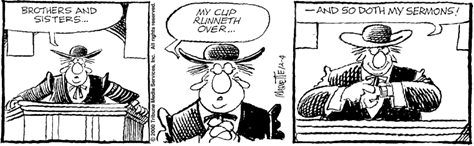
God’s word has been translated into every language, with dozens of different English versions available. You can buy it almost anywhere or get it for free from any of the dozens of churches in every town. You can put it on your computer or PDA, read it in a hotel room, carry it in your pocket, listen to CDs in your car, or read it off the internet. You can hear it preached every day on radio, TV or the internet. In addition to the ready availability of God’s word, we have Bible study helps beyond anything the early Christians or ancient Israelites could have imagined—from concordances, to lexicons, to study Bibles and commentaries galore. We can even learn the original biblical languages without attending a university. The World Wide Web now provides access to almost limitless study material and helps.

Yet in the midst of plenty, is it possible we too are experiencing a famine of sorts? Perhaps the famine is in the pulpits, from which the word is to be expounded.   
***[2 Timothy 4:2 – 4]*** ***Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*** ***3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;*** ***4and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.***

Many preachers have replaced Biblical, expository preaching with catchy subjects and pop psychology, and meaty full-length sermons with lightweight sermonettes. But is this solely the fault of the preachers, when many listeners will no longer tolerate a sermon beyond 20 minutes? In the midst of plenty, have we lost our thirst? Or are we even too busy to notice or care?

Theologian John Bright rightly insists that a church is only as great as its message. Water cannot rise higher than its source, and the source of life for the church is the word of God. Worship and service are likewise vital, but when the word is no longer the focus and foundation, the church will no longer have an impact on the world. If and when that happens—God forbid! — there truly will be a famine of the word of God.

***[1 Timothy 3:14-16] 4:1*** ***These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; 15but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*** ***16And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:  God***[***£***](qvb://QVB/54002145/syncglossary/35039) ***was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.***

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Joshua and Caleb [Numbers 14:6]

2. David [2 Samuel 13:31]

3. Naaman the Syrian’s [2 Kings 5:7]

4. Hushai the Archite [2 Samuel 15:32]

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