**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 27, 2020**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Philips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Buck Phillips **Prayer-** Buck Phillips

**Song Leader-** Hayden Thomas **Song Leader-** Various

**Communion:**

**-- Comments –** Ben Wofford **Comments –** Bill McIlvain

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque **Communion –** Curran LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** Cliff Davis

**-- Assisting –** Eli Hickey

**-- Scripture –** Jude Thomas **Scripture –** Various

**Closing Prayer –** Darryl Griffing **Closing Prayer-** Lucian Griffing

**Wednesday Night – December 30, 2020**

**First Prayer –** Ben Wofford

**Song Leader –** Buck Phillips

**Invitation –** Curran LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer –** Dan Woodward

**December 27 Evening Prayer & Song Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **27** | Williams | Take the time to police your area before you go. |
| **Jan 3** | Sammons | Cheerios and other cereals can draw ants. |

**About Our Service Tonight --**

**Every man is asked to lead their favorite hymn and make a comment or two about the song or at least read the scripture reference that is underneath the title.**

**We really would like to encourage those who have been a little shy about leading a song. If all you can do is announce the song, we can pitch it for you and get it started. All you need do is to pick the selection and we can do the rest.**

**A song leader is not meant to be super talented, just willing to get us started.**

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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 Davis, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**December 27, 2020**

***The Color Purple***

1. What book mentions people who had worn purple pawing through the garbage of Jerusalem?

2. What books speaks of an industrious wife who wears clothes of fine purple linen?

3. What people defeated by Gideon wore purple garments?

4. What Jew wore the royal purple garments in a foreign court?

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***Santa Claus Is God in the Eyes of Children***

**Submitted by New Smyrna Beach Bulletin**

Remember the excitement of Christmas Eve as children when we couldn't get to sleep. We were awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus. We were told that "He knows when you are sleeping, he knows when you're awake, he knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake".

Now children know Santa Claus lives far away on the North Pole and they have never met him. Children can understand how parents know if they've been bad or good, but for a perfect stranger that lives far away to know when they are sleeping or awake is nothing short of supernatural.

***Santa Claus Is God in the Eyes of Children***

**Continued**

In fact Santa Claus to a child is an exact representation of God to an adult. Children are taught to believe in this "all knowing", "always present", "all powerful" giver of best gifts. In fact, a child's faith in Santa Claus is in my opinion more powerful than their faith in God himself.

I am reminded of a boy in my grade 2 classes. It was just before Christmas Break and the whole class was excited. One boy discovered that Jamie, a fellow classmate, still believed in Santa Claus. The whole class ridiculed Jamie so bad that he ran out of the class and cried all the way home. My heart still goes out to Jamie. Yet in reality most children learn that Santa Claus doesn't really exist by mocking of older children or peers as in Jamie's case. Older siblings love to laugh at younger siblings when parents give approval to "pop" the Santa-Claus bubble of the young and faithful.

Now this is where the danger lies. Every year, millions of children suddenly have their faith "shattered" in this "all knowing", "omni-present", "all-powerful” Santa-Claus. This must damage their ability to have faith in the one true God who really does exist. No wonder adults usually visualize God as a kind old man and Jesus as baby in a Christmas nativity scene. This is how they were taught about God and Jesus as children.

Since Christmas is not found in the Bible, I believe parents would be well advised to participate in Santa Claus as a game. Teach children that Santa Claus is a myth and a fairy-tale on their first Christmas. Play the "Santa-Claus game" but protect your children's faith in God by seeking out and destroying any "faith" they have in Santa Claus.

Otherwise, imagine this: Your 13 year old hears the preacher talk about God the Father, as an all knowing, all powerful giver of the gift of eternal salvation in his Sunday sermon. The preacher then encourages all to have faith in God. But "once bitten, twice shy". Your young teen thinks to himself, "Deja Vu! I know when I am an adult, that I will learn that Jesus was just a myth just like Santa Claus".

Playing the "Santa-Claus game" doesn't take any of the fun or joy out of Christmas for children. In fact they may enjoy it more!

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***Not A Laughing Matter***

Some people think that there is no such place as hell or that it is not as bad as the Bible makes it out. I don’t know anywhere in the Bible that says salvation is a free ride and that you win the prize of eternal salvation with our Lord in heaven by simply riding out this life on earth as you would an amusement ride. The bible clearly teaches us that the reward for the saved will come from diligence.

***[Hebrews 11:6] But without faith it is impossible to please Him. For he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.***

***“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ Matthew 7:21-23***

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Lamentations [Lamentations 4:5]

2. Proverbs [Proverbs 31:22]

3. The Midianites [Judges 8:26]

4. Mordecai [Esther 8:15] or Daniel [Daniel 5:29]

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