**SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 28, 2021**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Mark Tally **Song Leader-** Bill McIlvain

**Communion:**

**-- Comments –** Andy Fuller **Comments –** Darryl Griffing

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque **Communion –** Cliff Davis

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Cliff Davis

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

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

**Closing Prayer-** Ben Wofford **Closing Prayer-** Andy Fuller

**Wednesday Night – March 31, 2021**

**First Prayer–** Ben Wofford

**Song Leader –** Connor LaChappelle

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer** – Cliff Davis

**Evening Lesson –** Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **March** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **28** | Turner | Please try to pick up after services |
| **April 4** | MacQuilliam |  |

**Something Good To Think About --**

**Wouldn’t this old world be better if the folks we meet would say, “I know something good about you!” And then treat us just that way?**

**Wouldn’t it be fine and dandy if each handclasp warm and true carried with it this assurance, I know something good about you! Wouldn’t life be a lot happier if we praised the good we see? For there’s such a lot of goodness in the worst of you and me.**

**Wouldn’t it be nice to practice that fine way of thinking, too? You know something good about me! I know something good about you!**

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***Schedule of Services***

**Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.**

**Phone Bridge Call: (678) 701-5124**

**Wi-Fi Password: church1234**

**This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.**

**Send any articles for the bulletin to** **Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com**

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**9441 Bypass, P.O. Box 768, Covington, GA30015 --- [770] 787-1119**

**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**March 28, 2019**

***Black***

1. What insect invasion made the Egyptian ground black?

2. Who prayed that the day he was born would be covered with blackness?

3. What disease was considered to be healed if healthy black hair was growing on the skin?

4. What did the rider on the black horse in Revelation bring to the earth?

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***God’s Rod & Staff***

**By Jim Jonas**

They were both weathered from constant exposure to the sun. Their clothes were filthy, and both reeked of stale tobacco mixed with overwhelming body odor. Her ankles were swollen from mosquito bites, acquired from sleeping outside. They had stood for six hours on the onramp, trying to hitch a ride to … anywhere. They asked for money for a bus ticket to … nowhere. They were rootless, jobless and aimless.

After supplying them with some food and bedding materials, we spoke to them about spiritual priorities. We talked of putting the kingdom first, of the futility of a vagabond life, of the humiliation of begging from strangers.

***God’s Rod & Staff***

**Continued**

We tried to help them see the advantages of gainful employment, stable income, a roof over their heads. We tried to gently point out the consequences of the life they had chosen to live, and the blessings of the life God wants us to live.

It was somewhere in the middle of this brief exhortation that an overwhelming combination of sadness and relief swept over me. It was the realization of how different these two lives were from mine. Of course, I had felt it before, but it always strikes me when I try to talk to aimless travelers who pass through, hands extended in perpetual need.

I was sad because I knew that this couple did not have to live this kind of life. While I realize that the heart of our relationship with Christ is not material, our Lord did say, ***“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33*** – “these things” being clothes, food, shelter, etc.). God’s word unveils principles that promote a materially fruitful life.

But the sadness of their plight was balanced by the gladness of the life I am trying to live for God. I realized afresh how wonderful it is to have the guidance of God, the insight into how to live in this world. No, this is not a guarantee of a certain quality of life, for persecution or natural calamity may take it all away. But if so, I will still have the very essence of life: the revelation of God’s thoughts which direct me in wise choices, godly character, service (as opposed to insatiable need), and true purpose.

David, who endured his own times of nomadic wandering, still considered God as his Shepherd: “He makes me lie down in green pastures … He leads me beside the still waters … He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake … Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me … Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

With his rod and staff the shepherd gently nudges his sheep toward the right path. Further, he protects them from predators. Think about it: where would we be if we did not have God’s word to guide us, to define what is a meaningful life, to make sense of a confusing, intimidating world? If not for God’s truth, I would probably be on the streets with this homeless couple.

And the saddest part of all? To know the truth of a better life, but see your words make no sense to a couple dazed by hand to mouth survival – ***“whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe … (2 Corinthians 4:4).***

**A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world-and might even be more difficult to save. -C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)**

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***The Vanity of Wealth***

When will some of us let go of this world? We give lip service to Him, but our minds and hearts can be so very far away at times.

 

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Locusts [Exodus 10:15]

2. Job [Job 3:5]

3. Leprosy [Leviticus 11:31 & 37]

4. Famine [Revelation 6:6]

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