**SERVICE SCHEDULE for July 18, 2021**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Darryl Griffing **Prayer-** Darryl Griffing

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

**-- Comments –** Mark Tally **Comments –** Ben Wofford

**-- Assisting –** Andy Fuller **Communion –** Cliff Davis

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** Connor LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** DeanShacklock **Scripture –** Josiah Phillips

**Closing Prayer-** Phillip Dorn **Closing Prayer-** Buck Phillips

**Wednesday Night – July 21, 2021**

**First Prayer–** Ron Bailey

**Song Leader –** Ben Wofford

**Invitation –** Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer –** Cliff Davis

**June 25 Morning Lesson –** Eli Hickey **& Evening Lesson –** Buck Phillips

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **July** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **18** | Land | Please Be Considerate |
| **25** | K. Fuller | Clean the area around your seat |

**Being A Good Neighbor:**

**Mr. Rogers once told a journalist, “When we look at our neighbor with appreciative eyes …. with gratitude for who that person truly is, then I feel we are arm in arm with Christ Jesus, the advocate of eternal good.” Because Rogers recognized the value of each person, he believed in being a good neighbor to all.**

**When Jesus was asked, “Who is my neighbor?” He told the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37). Who in our “neighborhood” needs a kind word, an arm of friendship, or an act of encouragement today? Jesus calls us to show love and compassion to others as we love God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27).**

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***Schedule of Services***

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

**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**

**July 18, 2****021**

***For The Birds***

1. What prophecy predicted that desert birds would use a ruined Edom as their home?

2. Who had a vision of a sheet filled with all sorts of unclean birds and other animals?

3. What nation would be brought down by God even though it had soared like an eagle?

4. What Babylonian king had a dream of a tree where every bird found shelter?

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***Buried Alive***

**By Jason Hart**

On the Oregon Trail, at least some of the emigrants who died en route to Oregon were buried alive.  The reason why was because the survivors were in a hurry.

For many years, cholera ravaged the emigrants along the Oregon Trail.  Whoever caught it was dead – no cure or treatment existed.  Usually, the infected emigrant died in twenty-four hours or less.  If an entire wagon train stopped for an elaborate funeral, it would slow their progress.  Too many delays meant the pioneers might not get to Oregon before winter – and then everyone might perish.

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***Buried Alive***

**Continued**

So, on most wagon trains, the burials became shorter and shorter as more and more people died.  Some even abandoned the terminally sick by the side of the Trial, where they would eventually die alone.  The more humane wagon companies elected a “watcher” to wait with the person while the wagons forged ahead.  It wouldn’t take long for the watcher to catch up.

Many watchers were in such a hurry that they started digging the grave long before their infected companion was dead.  Needless to say, watching your own grave being dug was probably quite disturbing.  If you happened to linger too long, well, no one is for sure, but evidence strongly suggests that some were accidentally buried before they took their final breath.

That is disturbing, isn’t it?  Yet, what is even more disturbing is that this very thing is happening today.  There are many sick and diseased Christians that will soon wither away and die.  They are spiritually diseased by the sins of the world (2nd Peter 2:20-21).  Their only hope is that some other healthy Christian will have enough compassion to see them nursed back to health (James 5:19-20).

Too often, sick Christians are left for their own burial.  Their brothers and sisters in Christ are caring very little for their lost souls; they might assume that the church has already dug their grave.  How does this happen?  The same way it did on the Oregon Trail: we can become too busy to stop and help the sin-filled soul along the way.  Brethren, this ought not to be!

Perhaps it would do us all well to think of some person who has fallen away from the faith and decide what kind of effort we can put forth to help them – and I certainly do not mean digging their grave for them.  I’m talking about helping them out of Satan’s grasp and helping them catch up with the rest of the wagon train (Jude 23).

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***Have You Been Screened?***

**By David Maxson**

***For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. [Hebrews 4:12 ]***

Perhaps you've read or heard the latest news that death rates from colon cancer are falling. That's good news since it is the second deadliest cancer, trailing only lung cancer. Why the dramatic decrease? Researchers credit it to early detection from screenings. They found that in the states with the highest decrease in deaths from the disease corresponded with the highest number of people screened.

One of the reasons cancer is so deadly is there are usually no visible signs. That's kind of the way sin is. Sin is essentially a heart issue. Jesus said: ***"What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." Mark 7:20-23***

We must root these issues out of our hearts before they've become habits; before we have become comfortable with them and have found pleasure in them.

So, like cancer, the key to preventing spiritual death is early detection. Thankfully, we have a tool to help us: the Word of God! Like a surgeon's scalpel, it cuts inside and exposes what is underneath the surface. It finds the source of our sin so we might be able to get rid of it.

Like some cancer screenings, using the Word in this way may not be pleasant and it may require some effort on our part to use it, but it will save our lives--our eternal lives!

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**Answers from page 1**

1. [Isaiah 34:11-14]

2. Peter [Acts 10:9-13]

3. Edom [Obadiah 4]

4. Nebuchadnezzar [Daniel 4:12]

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