**SERVICE SCHEDULE for August 15, 2021**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Eli Hickey **Song Leader-** Jason LaChappelle

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

**-- Assisting –** Andy Fuller **Communion –** Phillip Dorn

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** Connor LaChappelle

**-- Scripture –** Dean Shacklock **Scripture –** Josiah Phillips

**Closing Prayer-** Phillip Dorn **Closing Prayer-** Ron Bailey

**Wednesday Night – August 18, 2021**

**First Prayer–** Ron Bailey

**Song Leader –** Ben Wofford

**Invitation –** Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer –** Cliff Davis

**June 29 Evening Song & Scripture Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **August** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **15** | Lucas | Please Be Considerate |
| **22** | LaChappelle | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts About Being Faithful**

**Is a car that starts seven times out of ten faithful?  Is a refrigerator that only quits once a month faithful?  Is your paperboy faithful if he only misses delivering your paper two or three times a week?**

**If your hot water heater greets you with hot water five mornings out of seven, would you call it faithful--or would call a plumber?  If you don't come to work one or two mornings a week, would your boss consider you faithful--or unemployed?**

**If you attend the assemblies of the church in a similar manner, only missing occasionally, coming most of the time—how do you judge?**

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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**

**Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com**



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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**August 15, 2****021**

***Local Churches of the New Testament***

1. To what church did Jesus say, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock”?

2. At what church did believers hold their property in common?

3. Who was sent by the Jerusalem church to oversee the church at Antioch?

4. In what church were Christians guilty of taking other Christians to court?

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***Evil Exists Because God Is Love***

**By Edwin Crozier**

Epicurus was an ancient Greek philosopher who lived about 300 B.C He said, *“Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able and not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?” Others have asked these same questions for the 2300 years since. However, in their seeming wisdom, they merely demonstrate how philosophers, enamored with their own wisdom cannot see the flaws in their own reasoning.*

Epicurus and his philosophical offspring over the millennia have created a false dilemma. That is, they have developed a set of choices and acted like the choices they have listed are the only ones available when they are not.

***Evil Exists Because God Is Love***

**Continued**

Epicurus believed a God who is able to eradicate evil but doesn’t do so must be malevolent. So, there are but two choices. Either God is not able to do anything about evil or God is evil Himself. It didn’t occur to Epicurus that there is a third option. It never occurred to him that God might actually be wiser than him and have a better alternative.

Is it possible God sees a good end that can come from the evil and suffering that goes on in the world even today? Is it possible God allows evil because in His infinite wisdom He can actually use it in a way that benefits men if we will let it?

I suggest God who is able to eradicate all evil is unwilling to do so not because He is malevolent but because He loves us too much to do so. First, His love is demonstrated by granting us the free will to choose between good and evil. He loves us too much to force us to be good like Him. He lets us pursue our own course.

Second, He loves us enough to allow evil so that we may grow and learn to rely on Him, which leads to salvation (see 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 and Romans 5:3-5). Without evil in the world, we would have no notion of our need to turn to and rely on God. We would be lost and never know it.

Third, He loves us enough to allow evil so we can learn to be merciful like Him (Matthew 5:7). If there were no evil, we could not learn how to relieve the suffering of those who have endured evil. We could not learn to be like God.

Finally, God loved us enough to send His Son as an answer to all evil. By surrendering to Jesus we can eradicate evil in our lives and help do so in others and prepare for the day God eradicates the world because it is evil. ***[Galatians 2:20]*** ***I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

Yes, evil exists, but not because God is malevolent. No, evil exists because God is love. 

***The Ebb & Flow Of Life***

**By Jim Jonas**

Even when we seem to be in an “up cycle” of conversions, we should not be surprised if we later enter a “down cycle” where it appears that few are interested in the gospel.

Most of our new students have come to us via newspaper ads. They are the same ads that we have been using for quite some time producing a smaller response, so we are perplexed as to why all of a sudden, several people are showing a renewed interest in things other than the materialistic.

I discussed this question with one young lady who has been coming, she told me she was coming to increase her faith. She wants to once again focus on the only thing that she has ever experienced that would give her real hope -- GOD.”

This seems to be a general characteristic of life. Seasons change. Illness is often cyclical. Peace and war swap places. And who can figure out the ups and downs of petroleum prices?! But strangely, even the spiritual climate of a culture changes, often rapidly.

Perhaps most puzzling is the rapid turnabout by the Lystrans. Almost overnight, they went from praising Paul as a god to pelting him with rocks (Acts 14:11-19). Later, the three fruitful years that Paul had spent in Ephesus and Asia turned bitter: ***“This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me” (2 Timothy 1:15).***

There are unseen dynamics which are out of our control. Some of them are the result of human nature. Some of them may be God’s will for or against a culture or nation. When we are befuddled by either the ebb or flow of life, let us remember that the inner workings of this world are often veiled to us in the present. We should not overly praise ourselves during high cycles or be depressed by the low cycles. Rather, let us be steady and constant, doing the very things that God would have us do ***whether “in season or out of season” (2 Timothy 4:2).***

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Laodicea [Revelation 3:20]

2. Jerusalem [Acts 2:44-45]

3. Barnabas [Acts 11:22]

4. Corinth [1 Corinthians 6:1-4]

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