**SERVICE SCHEDULE for November 14, 2021**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Scott Lucas **Song Leader-** Curran LaChappelle

**-- Comments –** Eli Hickey **Comments –** Connor LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Connor LaChappelle **Communion –** Andy Fuller

**-- Assisting –** Cliff Davis

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** Phillip Dorn **Scripture –** Josiah Phillips

**Closing Prayer-** John MacQuilliam **Closing Prayer-** Phillip Dorn

**Wednesday Night – November 17, 2021**

**First Prayer–** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader –** Buck Phillips

**Invitation –** Curran LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer –** Ben Wofford

**November 21 Evening Service –** Richard Boone

**Upcoming Assignments**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **November** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **14** | Bailey | Please Be Considerate |
| **21** | Dorn | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts –**

**People are like tea bags -- you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.**

**If you always speak the truth, you'll never have to remember what you said.**

**I was sad for I had no shoes, till I met a man who had no feet.**

**Laugh every day; it's like inner jogging.**

**A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.**

**Singing Class –**

**There will be a new singing class offered to anyone who would like to learn more about song leading, shape notes and harmony singing in general. The time will be at 4:30 on Sunday evenings.**

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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**

**November 14, 2****021**

***Cursers & the Cursed***

1. What was the only animal to be cursed by God?

2. Who was sent by the king of Moab to put a curse on Israel?

3. Where does it say that kings should not be cursed, for little birds will tell on the cursing person?

4. Who cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit? [See article below]

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***Church Work not Church Growth***

**By Edwin L. Crozier**

 Something occurred to me recently. I have spent the last 11 years as an evangelist learning how to make churches grow. After all this study, I have finally learned the secret to church growth.

It is not our job to grow churches! 1 Corinthians 3:5-8 says: ***What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.***

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***Who Are You Really Serving?***

**By David Maxson**

***"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen that good portion, which will not be taken away from her." [Luke 10:41-42]***

It's hard to be critical of Martha, isn't it? All she was doing was serving the Lord, right? What could be more important than that? Mary should have been in there helping her!

We can see ourselves in Martha. If you're reading this, chances are you are a really committed Christian. You are busy serving others. Your weekly calendar is filled with activity. Almost every hour of the day is spent running here and there, and everything you do is about others.

Or is it? Is it possible that all of our busy-ness is not really about others? Is it possible that we do the things we do for ourselves?

Martha was driven to serve but her harsh criticism of her sister betrayed a heart that was not set on Jesus but on self. If her only desire was to please Jesus then she wouldn't have even noticed that Mary was not helping her out.

Perfectionists can sometimes be critical of others because their striving for perfection is not about God but about themselves. They are not driven solely by a desire for God's approval, but they are driven, at least in part, by an awareness of how they are being judged by others. They are terribly insecure. They are never doing enough. To them, Christianity is a competition. They must be better than everyone else.

Many of us are like Martha *--****distracted with much serving*** (Luke 10:40)*.* Jesus is speaking to us as he tries to calm down this anxious and troubled sister. Perhaps we need to slow down and focus more on him and less on each other and where we stand in the race.

*Lord, purify our hearts. May our service to others be about you and not about ourselves.*

***Church Work not Church Growth***

**Continued ---**

Whose job is it to make churches grow? God’s. What is our job? Our job is to work. Our job is to plant and water. Consider the vineyard keeper. Who actually makes grapes grow on the vine? Is it the farmer? No. He plants the seed, he fertilizes the field, he waters the crop. But the farmer does not know the secret of life and cannot make things grow. God does that.

Suddenly my concept of successful work has changed. I used to believe a work was only successful if people got baptized because of it. That is just not true. A work is successful when it gets Christians working. None of us will be lost if we never baptize anyone in our lives. We will be lost if we never work. We must not be like the one talent man of Matthew 25 who was so convinced his works wouldn’t work that he never worked. As the master informed that slave, we must do something.

If we have two opportunities to work and we know one of them tends to bear more fruit to God’s glory, I believe we should choose that one. Sadly, what we usually see is people saying, “That doesn’t work.” And instead of doing something they believe does work, they do nothing. Doing nothing succeeds at doing nothing.

Do I want people to be baptized? Do I want the congregation to grow? However, what I have learned is we need fewer church growth seminars and more church work seminars. We need fewer goals about baptisms and more goals about amount of work.

What would happen in a congregation that changed its annual goal from “We want five baptisms this year” to “We want five more people reading and studying their Bibles with their lost friends and family this year”? Do you think that church would grow? I do. But if it didn’t, that really doesn’t matter. That church is the one doing what it is supposed to, getting Christians working. That is our job.

The final question then is how much work are you doing?

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**Answers from page 1**

1. The serpent [Genesis 3:14-15]

2. Balaam [Numbers 22:1-6]

3. [Ecclesiastes 10:20]

4. Jesus [Mark 11:21]

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