**SERVICE SCHEDULE for November 21, 2021**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Buck Phillips **Song Leader-** Jason LaChappelle

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

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

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Connor LaChappelle

**-- Scripture –** Ben Wofford **Scripture –** Cooper Newman

**Closing Prayer-** Phillip Dorn **Closing Prayer --** Connor L.

**Wednesday Night – November 24, 2021**

**First Prayer–** Roger German

**Song Leader –** Eli Hickey

**Invitation –** Andy Fuller

**Closing Prayer –** Buck Phillips

**November 21 Evening Service –** Richard Boone

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **November** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **21** | Dorn | Please Be Considerate |
| **28** | Davis | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts –**

**PAWS – When I Am Angry**

**P= Pray immediately (Jeremiah 33:3).**

**A= Act Godly (1 Peter 2:24).**

**W= Walk worthy (Ephesians 4:1).**

**S= Speak appropriately (Psalm 19:14).**

**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 21, 2****021**

***The Company of Apostles***

1. Who had a vision of a sheet filled with unclean animals?

2. Who did Jesus say he would make into fishers of men?

3. Who did Jesus take with him at Gethsemane?

4. Who expressed dismay over how to feed the five thousand?

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***Godly Motivation***

**By Jim Jonas**

News item – Carrollton, Virginia: “Go to church, put money in the collection basket – it’s almost expected. At Sweet Haven Holy Church of God in rural Isle of Wight County, you could get some money back. After each service, Bishop Nathaniel Johnson passes out green play money. Find a bill with the pastor’s initials on the back, you win between $10 and $100. Up to four people win each Sunday. There’s a catch – parishioners must be at church for the entire service, which often lasts more than two hours. He said attendance has doubled to about 100 people since he started the program about three years ago.”

In acceptable service to God, proper motivation cannot be separated from action. To contribute to a humanitarian agency merely for the tax advantage is a matter of economics rather than benevolence.

To consume the elements of the Lord’s supper with the mind distracted by other affairs is not to worship but to eat and drink judgment upon oneself. See (1 Corinthians 11:29).

***Godly Motivation***

**Continued**

The Jews continued their rituals but chafed under the burden: ***“When will the New Moon be past, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may trade our wheat?” (Amos 8:5).***

Christians must be careful to maintain a balance between *what* they do and *why* they do what they do. Neither of these elements should be sacrificed in favor of the other.

In the above news item, Nathaniel Johnson is more interested in filling his building with warm bodies than filling men’s souls with proper awe and reverence for God. His attendance may have doubled but at what cost? Do men have to be *paid* to serve the God who has already sacrificed Himself for them? What a pathetic commentary on the religious destitution of our nation!

But lest we only gleefully find fault in others, we should examine our own attitude as we serve God. There are more subtle ways to selfishly serve God besides expecting a cash payment.

Do we only do for God what is convenient? Are we willing to do only those things which have a tangible reward? Do we only give out of our abundance (2 Samuel 24:24)?

Our public worship is not the totality of our service to God; it is merely one aspect of a faithful life. It has trappings which can be deceiving: making a fashion statement, punctual formality, “worship manners,” a “check-list” approach to fulfilling our duties. We pay to attend games, concerts, movies, etc. What would you be willing to pay for the privilege of worshiping God?

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***Pass The Pain, Please***

**By Terry Francis**

Life can often be categorized in two ways: pleasure and pain. All of us like pleasure more. We want times of joy and laughter. We want to feel good about life. We don’t want the pain and agony of suffering. The pleasure is the cake. Pain is the broccoli. We need pain. It is vital to our spiritual development.

The statement “we need pain” seems odd. In fact, it seems downright insane. The wise writer said, ***“It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for by sadness of face the heart is made glad. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth” [Ecclesiastes 7:2-4].*** Mourning is better than feasting? Sorrow is better than laughter? Absolutely. We need pain. We should all consider the benefits of pain.

**Pain is a good gift.** We don’t think of pain in that way. But if God allows pain to occur, it must be good for us. Jesus asked the question, “…***which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!” [Matthew 7:9-11].*** Everything God gives us is good. It works out to be good for us [Romans 8:28]. Often we think God is giving us a serpent when He is actually handing us fish. The pain helps us grow and mature. It is good for us.

**Pain serves as the evidence of our ability to feel.** Without pain, we could never experience joy. Without tears, we would never laugh. Perhaps that’s why Paul told the Roman brethren to ***“Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” [Romans 12:5].*** It is impossible to cry with people you can’t laugh with. The preacher wrote there was a ***“time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance’ [Ecclesiastes 3:4].*** The emotions of joy and pain are forever connected. One serves as proof that the other is alive and well. Without pain, we could never rejoice. It is indeed a blessing to us all.

**Pain helps us long for heaven.** Perhaps the best benefit of a healthy serving of pain is the motivation it gives us to strive for eternal life. The pain of this life should motivate us for a home in heaven. A place where there is no suffering, no night, no pain, no agony, no crying, etc. [Revelation 21:3-4]. Pain reminds us there is a better place than this. This world is truly not our home. And we don’t want it to be! We want a home that is filled with the richness and goodness of heaven—not the pain of earth.

Perhaps a sign of maturity is asking for more broccoli. Adults recognize the nutritional value of broccoli. Some even grow to like the taste. We don’t have to find pleasure in pain but we do need to see it as a healthy part of spiritual growth. It helps us become who we need to be. God’s grace is sufficient for us, too! In weakness we are made strong. Perhaps we should say, “Pass the pain please.”

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Peter [Acts 10:916]

2. Peter and Andrew [Mark 1:17]

3. Peter James and John [Mark 14:33]

4. Philip [John 6:7]

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