**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 12, 2021**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Cliff Davis **Prayer-** Cliff Davis

**Song Leader-** Connor LaChappelle **Song Leader-** Buck Phillips

**-- Comments –** Buck Phillips **Comments –** Darryl Griffing

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey **Communion –** Phillip Dorn

**-- Assisting –** Mark Tally

**-- Assisting –** Phillip Dorn

**-- Assisting –** Eli Hickey

**-- Scripture –** Cooper Newman **Scripture –** Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer-** Brandon Esque **Closing Prayer-** Ron Bailey

**Wednesday Night – December 15, 2021**

**First Prayer–** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader** – Buck Phillips

**Invitation –** Curran LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer –** Ben Wofford

**December 26 Evening Song & Prayer Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **12** | Wofford | Please Be Considerate |
| **19** | McIlvain | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts –**

**Some people are under the delusion that God must allow everyone to enter into heaven if He truly is a loving God. But the great God in under no obligation to any of his creatures, least of all to those who are rebels against him.” ― Arthur W. Pink, The Attributes of God**

**‘Tis the time to visit:** The holiday season offers opportunities to reach out to others. Look and pray for opportunities to do so.

**Singing Class –**

**The singing class is still 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. Can you Name That Tune?**

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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**

**December 12, 2****021**

***Various Rulers***

1. What king attacked the Israelites on their way into Canaan?

2. What king of Sidon gave his daughter Jezebel as a wife to Ahab?

3. What king of Bashan was famous for having a huge iron bed?

4. Who was the last king of Judah?

5. What king of Hazor organized an alliance against Joshua?

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***It’s Christmas Time***

**By Edwin Crozier**

It’s Christmas time. That means visiting family, spending money, giving gifts, eating candy and generally having a good time. Oh yeah, it also means hearing mangled versions of Jesus’ birth.

We know enough Bible to catch the mistakes. We know angels did not appear at the manger. We know wise men did not meet Jesus until He was a toddler. We know there is no knowing how many wise men were there. We know there is absolutely no proof Jesus was born on December 25. We know we have no idea when Jesus was born. We know God never asks us to celebrate Jesus’ birth by establishing a holiday, decorating a tree, putting up lights and passing out gifts.

We know all of this. Therefore, we do not need another article right now about the origins of Christmas or the fact Jesus is not the reason for the Christmas season. (Maybe someday, but not now.)

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***It’s Christmas Time***

**Continued**

I would like us to approach this Christmas time from a different angle. Though their understanding is flawed, more people are willing to think about Jesus now than any other time. Doesn’t it stand to reason that we have more opportunity to talk about Jesus now? Instead of ridiculing people who are only interested in religion on major holidays, let’s see how many people we can talk to about Jesus.

One way is to try to talk to people about the real story of Jesus’ birth. Don’t do it with an “I’m-going-to-put-you-in-your-place” attitude. Instead, when the topic comes up, simply say, “I have heard the Christmas story for years. However, I was reading my Bible and found out the modern retelling is mistaken. Would you be interested in sitting down with me and reading the Bible to find out what really happened?” They may not want to, but at least you successfully planted a seed. You did your job.

You could invite folks to our assemblies and classes. “We have heard a lot about Jesus this month. Our congregation strives to be Jesus centered, just following Him and His word. You ought to come check us out this Sunday.”

Or come up with your own way to broach the subject of Jesus. The point is we should not let this golden month pass us by looking down on those who only seem to be interested in Jesus in December. Instead, let’s help people where they are. If they are interested in Jesus now, capitalize on it and help increase their interest for all year round. Who can you talk to this week?

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***Blue Death***

**By Jim Jonas**

An article in the *Birmingham News* (5/22/97) told of a tragic story unfolding in the Brazilian city of Goiania. An abandoned medical clinic had been looted and a lead capsule taken from a piece of equipment. Scrap dealers opened the capsule to find an eerie, glowing blue stone inside.

The alluring stone was broken into pieces and distributed among the curious. The superstitious wondered if it might have magical powers. But over the next few days people throughout the city of Goiania began to drift into area hospitals with unusual symptoms. One man had blistered flesh on his thigh, next to where he had carried a piece of the blue stone in his pocket. Others died, including a six-year old girl who had swallowed a fragment of the stone.

As panic ensued, authorities investigated the remaining pieces of the mysterious stone. It was no ordinary stone but highly radioactive cesium 137 used in radiation treatment of cancer. For sixteen days this deadly bauble had been passed around the unsuspecting populace of Goiania.

“Everyone who had direct contact with it received a radiation dose of between 400 and 1,000 rems – as much as some victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki blasts in World War II,” the article noted.

As I read this story some spiritual applications were immediately obvious. People are often attracted to sinful things while oblivious to the potential for harm. They want to touch it, hold it and put it in their pockets without realizing that it is contaminating their souls.

 Further, a little exposure to sin can do a lot of damage. We might consider sin merely an act that can easily be confessed and then put aside. But sin is more powerful than that. A personal sense of guilt or remorse or weakness to certain temptations once indulged can linger for a very long time.

Also, as with radiation poisoning, the effects of sin may not surface for years. Sometimes other events in life will trigger hidden memories and feelings and make us vulnerable to sin. We recently met a young woman who is having emotional problems in her adult life because of her exposure to certain powerful sins in younger days.

Finally, everything contaminated by the cesium 137 – 6,000 ***tons*** of clothing, furniture, pieces of buildings, and even dirt – was packed in steel drums and buried in earthquake-proof concrete vaults. Likewise, sin should be avoided at all costs. Sin is lethal and polluting. Root it out. Pack it up. Bury it. Forget it.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. The king of Arad [Numbers 21:1-3]

2. Ethbaal [1 Kings 16:31]

3. Og [Deuteronomy 3:11]

4. Zedekiah [2 Kings 25:1-7]

5. Jabin [Joshua 11:1-5]

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