**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 26, 2021**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Curran LaChappelle **Song Leader**- Jason LaChappelle

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

**-- Assisting –** Josiah Phillips **Communion** – Bill McIlvain

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

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

**Closing Prayer-** Phillip Dorn **Closing Prayer-** Connor LaChappelle

**Wednesday Night – December 29, 2021**

**First Prayer–** Brandon Esque

**Song Leader** – Roger German

**Invitation –** Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer –** Andy Fuller

**December 26 Evening Song & Prayer Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **26** | LaChappelle | Please Be Considerate |
| **Jan 2** | Shepherd | Clean the area around your seat |

**Song & Prayer Service –**

**We are devoting this evening’s service for some MUCH NEEDED prayer. There are prayer request forms in the foyer. The Elders & Deacons will be conducting this much needed service. Thank you all for participating.**

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

**Men’s Meeting –**

**Ron Bailey is going to be our host on January 7. Plan to be at his home by 6PM. What better way to begin the New Year? Ron will fill everyone in regarding the particulars. Plan to bring a friend.**

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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)

**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 26, 2****021**

***Kings & Rulers***

1. What king was confronted by the prophet Nathan because of his adulterous affair?

2. What king of Israel reigned only two years and was murdered while he was fighting against the Philistines?

3. What man violently protested having a king is Israel, though he himself anointed the first two kings?

4. What city did king Jeroboam use as his capital when the northern tribes split from the southern tribes?

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***A Truly Real Fresh Start***

**By David Maxson**

***But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. [Philippians 3:13-14]***

It's exciting to turn the calendar. It's a new year! A new page! A fresh start! A clean slate! --- Or is it?

The newness of any new year wears off pretty quick. We quickly discover that the new has the same frustrations and problems of old one. We have the same bad habits, the same weaknesses, and the same sins we dealt with before the new year.

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***A Truly Real Fresh Start***

**Continued**

Our debts are still there. The consequences of bad decisions are still lingering. The guilt of past failures haven't gone anywhere with the turning of the calendar. All the emotional baggage of our past is still hanging around our necks.

But what the calendar can't do, Christ can. It is only with the cross that we can truly turn over a new leaf and finally close the book on our past. All the baggage, all the guilt, all the weight that has held us back... It's all taken away in Christ!

So enjoy and celebrate the new year, Christian, and resolve to do better in the new year! The ability to move forward is our birthright! While the world languishes in the past, Christ liberates us from sin that we might press onward and upward. So press on!

*O Father, we are not ought to be, but we thank you that we are not what we used to be. Give us more grace that we may continue to press on toward the prize!*

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***Afraid To Fail***

**By Edwin Crozier**

Failure is frightening. Nobody wants to make mistakes or do what is wrong. This fear plagues everyone from the person who is scared of teaching a Bible class because they might bomb all the way down to the person who is afraid to even say anything in the class because it might be incorrect.

Fear of failure plagues not only Christians, but also churches. There are a lot of churches that never really do anything because every idea they ever come up with is shot down. It may not work because of this reason. It could bomb because of that reason. They already know what they are doing is not working but are afraid to try anything else. What is worse is the number of churches acting as though their fear of failure and reticence to act is due to their desire to simply obey the Bible.

This reminds me of the one talent man in Matthew 25:14-30. While the two and five talent men took risks, trading with their talents, the one talent man was paralyzed by fear.

He was so afraid of losing what he started with that he accomplished nothing for his master. He was afraid to take risks. The amazing thing is when he was called to account he blamed his lack of achievement on his master. It was the master’s fault because he was so hard and demanding. The steward was simply demonstrating great strength by protecting what the master had given him.

Interestingly, the master did not deny being hard and demanding. He simply stated that the steward, knowing the master’s nature, should have at least done something.

Here is the key for Christians and for churches. We must not do what we know to be unscriptural. However, we must not be so afraid of doing something that does not work, that somebody may not like or even something we may find out was wrong that we do nothing.

We need to change our perception of failure. Failure is simply a step on the road to success. I can ride a bike today because I learned from each time I fell. In what situation would I be if I was so afraid of falling that I never got on the bike? I could certainly boast of never falling off a bike. But then again I would never have experienced the thrill of riding one.

If we step up to the plate, take a risk and fail, we need to dust off, ask why and learn. When we try again, we will do better.

Instead of fearing failure in God’s service we should fear futility. What good are we as servants if we are not even trying to bring our Master some kind of return, whether it be spiritual growth in ourselves or in others?

Better that we try something and fail, than try nothing and succeed.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. David [2 Samuel 12:1-15]

2. Nadab [1 Kings 15:26-27]

3. Samuel [1 Samuel 8-10]

4. Tirzah [1 Kings 14:17]

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Think About It