**SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 27, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Eli Hickey **Song Leader**- Bill McIlvain

**-- Comments** – Connor LaChappelle **Comments** – Ben Wofford

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

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** Ben Wofford **Scripture** – Ron Bailey

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

**Wednesday Night – March 30, 2022**

**First Prayer–** Ron Bailey

**Song Leader** – Josiah Phillips

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer –** Brandon Esque

**March 27 Evening Service** – Buck Phillips

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **March** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **27** | Shacklock | Please Be Considerate |
| **April 3** | Phillips | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts –**

**It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new. But there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power. -- Alan Cohen**

**Don't wish me happiness - I don't expect to be happy it's gotten beyond that, somehow. Wish me courage and strength and a sense of humor - I will need them all. -- Anne Morrow Lindbergh**

**I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. --Nelson Mandela.**

**Courage is fear holding on a minute longer. -- George S. Patton**

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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**

**March 27, 2****022**

***All About Priests***

1. What evil priest had Jeremiah beaten and placed in chains?

2. What Psalm has *a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek*?

3. What is the only parable to have a priest as a character?

4. Who locked horns with the wicked priest Amaziah at Bethel?

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***The "Seeker Friendly" Fad***

**By Al Diestelkamp**

The emergence of the "seeker-friendly" church, popularized by Rick Warren's book, The Purpose-Driven Church, has become quite a fad in religious circles. "Seeker-friendly" is a term which sounds good on the surface, but what is usually meant is anything but good. Keep in mind that the word "friendly" in this context is not referring to being cordial. Here it is being used as a suffix in a similar way as it is in the term "user-friendly" when claiming ease of use of some product. Thus, a "seeker-friendly" church is one that adapts to those seeking a church.

It's not unusual to be asked, "Is your congregation seeker-friendly?" Who would want to say, "No" to that question? Certainly, every congregation of the Lord's people ought to be very friendly toward anyone seeking the truth, but unfortunately that's not what is meant when the question is asked.  

***The "Seeker Friendly" Fad***

**Continued**

Churches which bill themselves as "seeker-friendly" are usually groups which have adopted a market-driven approach to church growth. Following the lead of mega-church founder, Bill Hybels, these churches survey the population to see what kind of church they want, and then form (or reform) a church to fit the desires of the people.

Of course, this is not a new concept, but one that was employed by Aaron back in the foothills of Mt. Sinai, resulting in Israelites dancing and playing in "The Church of the Golden Calf" (see Exodus 32). Later, King Jeroboam, claiming ***"It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem" (1 Kings 12:28)***, established a "seeker-friendly" religion boasting two convenient worship centers. Both of these attempts were numerically successful, but led Israel into sin.

It should be no surprise that a good portion of the sectarian world, having long ago abandoned any claim to following the New Testament as a pattern, has embraced this concept. Unfortunately, it is also not surprising that even some of our brethren, after gradually eroding away their loyalty to scriptural authority, have been caught up in the numbers game and have embraced some of the "seeker-friendly" tactics. One of the claims made by "seeker-friendly" advocates is that they stress the need for spiritual renewal without the negativity. I suppose that means that they preach the principle, but stop short of making the application.

Even from a few brethren who still claim to believe we need New Testament authority for all that we do, we hear the suggestion that maybe we ought to tone down our emphasis on authority. I've heard it suggested that visitors are turned off by preaching against instrumental music in worship, immodest apparel, divorce, etc. Evidently it's ok to preach against sin, in general, but it's a turn-off when you speak against specific sins.

Brethren sometimes justify following popular trends by claiming it's like eating watermelon. You learn to swallow the good part and spit out the seeds. It is true that something isn't necessarily wrong simply because it is practiced by those in error, but it is also true that a watermelon is sometimes rotten throughout.

Then there are some brethren who wouldn't compromise the truth on doctrinal issues, but have bought into another aspect of the "seeker-friendly" concept by advocating that we have to keep up with the sectarians with our places of worship. They try to convince us that unless we do, people won't seek us out. It's true that many worldly people have come to expect churches to impress them with state-of-the-art facilities and every comfort and convenience imaginable. While there may be nothing wrong with building comfortable and convenient places to meet, if we adopt a "build it and they will come" approach, we are being fooled because it is the pure gospel that must attract people to Christ (Romans 1:16).

Marketing polls indicate that people won't attend churches lacking ample off-street parking, or if their attendance approaches the capacity of their building. I assume these are the same people who will park on a side street blocks away from a theater they are attending, and will even wait for a table at a crowded restaurant. I think you'll find that people will do what they want to do, and if they want to seek the truth they will not be turned off by crowded conditions.

I'm not suggesting that we purposely make it difficult for people to worship by building meeting places and parking lots which are too small, but some congregations have been convinced that, in order to keep growing, they must add on or rebuild prematurely. A few congregations, after heeding such advice, have found out the hard way that people who visit because of the comfort and convenience, "stumble" at the "foolishness" of an unaltered gospel message (1 Corinthians 1:18-25).

Jesus said He came to ***"seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10).*** He also said, ***"If you abide in My word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).*** It's the truth that is "friendly" to one who is seeking the Lord, so we do truth- seekers no favor by trying to draw them in by any other means.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Passur [Jeremiah 20:1]

2. [Psalm 110:4]

3. The Good Samaritan [Luke 10:31]

4. Amos [Amos 7:10-17]

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