**SERVICE SCHEDULE for May 15, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Mark Tally **Song Leader**- Curran LaChappelle

**-- Comments** – Ben Wofford **Comments** – Andy Fuller

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey **Communion** – Ben Wofford

**-- Assisting** – Brandon Esqu**e**

**-- Assisting –** Phillip Dorn

**-- Assisting –** Eli Hickey

**-- Scripture –** Josiah Phillips **Scripture** – Connor LaChappelle

**Closing Prayer-** Dan Woodward **Closing Prayer**- Ron Bailey

**Wednesday Night – May 18, 2022**

**First Prayer–** Roger German

**Song Leader** – Eli Hickey

**Invitation –** Darryl Griffing

**Closing Prayer –** Buck Phillips

**May 22 Evening Service** – Ben Wofford

**May 29 Evening Song & Scripture Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **May** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **15** | Davis | Please Be Considerate |
| **22** | Shepherd | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts**

**Temptation -- A box of doughnuts in the lunch room with a sign on it that says, “Help yourself!” My greatest help in overcoming this temptation is to read the rest of the sign that says, “Left over from staff meeting last week!” Moral of the story: things that look good are not always what they appear to be.**

**Truth must be known in the mind, accepted in the heart, and acted in life.**

**Most people who are failures are experts in making excuses. Seeking to justify a fault merely compounds it. Defending a fault only proves that you have no intention of admitting it**

**Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.**

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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)

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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

**Deacons: Cliff Davis, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips**

**May 15, 2****022**

***Encounters with Angels***

1. The prophet Balaam could not see the Lord’s angel, but his talking donkey could. What was it about the angel that made the donkey turn away?

2. The angel of the Lord instructed Philip to go to Gaza. What person did Philip encounter afterward?

3. Elijah was nurtured by an angel after his flight from Israel’s evil queen. Who was she?

4. What Roman official was visited by an angel who told him God had heard his prayers?

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***Biographies***

**From "Will The Real Heretics Please Stand Up" by David Bercot**

**Justin Martyr [110-165]** --- Philosopher who converted to Christianity and became a tireless evangelist. His works are the earliest Christian apologies in existence. He was executed during the reign of Marcus Aurelius, about 165.

**Cyprian [200-258]** --- Bishop of the church in Carthage, North Africa, during a period of fierce persecution. He shepherded the congregation underground for a decade before being captured and executed by the Romans. Many of the letters written by, and to, him have been preserved.

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**[And Nothing Happened…](http://scottstem.wordpress.com/2009/09/23/and-nothing-happened/" \o "Permanent link to And Nothing Happened…)**

Recently our Thursday morning bible study class was focused around the story of the Fiery Furnace. You know, the story of the three Hebrew boys who chose to stand up for their beliefs when the King told them to bow.  And they said we will not bow for we worship God!  And the result was they were thrown into the fiery furnace. [You can read it in Daniel Chapter 3](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel%203&version=NLT)

About midway through it hit me.  We focus on the three who stand all the time.  But what about the thousands that bowed? In this story nothing happened. There was no punishment handed down from God at that moment – the ground did not swallow up all those people who worshipped the statue.

In fact, their daily life was not altered one bit. They continued to live out their existence in Babylon just like they always have before this incident. Nothing Happened.

Now you can think “it’s just not fair” that God doesn’t punish those who do not follow his guidelines, but that's the characteristic of His longsuffering. ***[2 Peter 3:8-9]*** ***But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*** ***9The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.***

It’s only fair that the people who stood up for what is right were vindicated. They passed the test of fire.  Nothing Happened to the other people because they did nothing. However, do you think God is going to reward those for doing nothing?

***[Revelation 20:11-12]*** ***Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.*** ***12And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.***

Go back to the story.  When we read it, we know the names of those who took a stand.   We see that because of their faith they were tossed into the furnace.  Doing nothing simply proves that being a disciple of Jesus is not worth it. ***[Matthew 16:24-27]*** ***Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*** ***25For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*** ***26For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?*** ***27For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.***

God rescued Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the furnace and the King realized how powerful God was. And for the rest of the people…Nothing happened! They lost the chance to impact their world.  When presented with the opportunity to stand, they bowed.  Their names are not recorded in Daniel 3 because they were afraid to do something. ***[Revelation 21:8] “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”***

Nothing Happened - But Something Will Happen! Don’t let nothing happen in your life!

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**Answers from page 1**

1. He was holding a drawn sword [Numbers 22:22-35]

2. The Ethiopian Eunuch [Acts 8:26-39]

3. Jezebel [1 Kings 19:1-8]

4. Cornelius [Acts 10:1-8]

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