**SERVICE SCHEDULE for May 1, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Cliff Davis **Prayer-** Darryl Griffing

**Song Leader-** Eli Hickey **Song Leader**- Jason LaChappelle

**-- Comments** – Connor LaChappelle **Comments** – Cliff Davis

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

**-- Assisting** – Brandon Esqu**e**

**-- Assisting –** Dean Shacklock

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

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

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

**Wednesday Night – May 4, 2022**

**First Prayer–** Ron Bailey

**Song Leader** – Josiah Phillips

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer –** Brandon Esque

**May 22 Evening Service** – Buck Phillips

**May 29 Evening Song & Scripture Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

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| **May** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **1** | Wofford | Please Be Considerate |
| **8** | MacQuilliam | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts –**

**How often in our lives have we withheld the truth from someone we’re supposed to love? We justify it by telling ourselves we’re doing them some kindness, when in reality, we’re just being selfish. We don’t want them to know the truth because if they did, well, they might not love us anymore. How many of us have ever felt that no one would love us if they knew the real us? Love bears all things, the Bible tells us. The truth is, everyone who really loves you can bear the real you.-- Erin O'Riordan**

**We've got enough going on in our lives today without stressing about things that might or might not happen tomorrow. ― Karen Gibbs**

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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**



**9441 Bypass, P.O. Box 768, Covington, GA30015 --- [770] 787-1119**

**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**May 1, 2****022**

***The Impersonators***

1. What king disguised himself to consult with a sorceress?

2. Who fooled Jacob by posing as her sister?

3. Who pretended to be crazy in order to escape from King Achish?

4. Who posed as her husband’s sister?

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***Profanity***

**By Adam Willingham**

“O my God!” “Good God!” “Jesus Christ!" These words are good and pure when used properly but profane when used to express nothing more than surprise or amazement. A person might utter the precious Lord’s name when he merely steps on his shoelace or hears a piece of juicy gossip.

There is even a website entitled OMG, devoted solely to celebrity gossip. Even serious matters are no excuse to abuse the Lord's name, let alone trivial matters. But every day, everywhere we go, it is being done - whether it be at work, in town, on television, on the internet or even in our homes.

When the Lord’s name is not specifically abused it is often replaced with euphemisms. Sadly, many of us have grown comfortable with hearing the Lord’s name in vain and perhaps find it less offensive than other vulgar language.  

***IS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST A CULT?***

**By David Diestelkamp**

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| *"According to cult expert David Halperin, most cults are groups organized for the purpose of venerating an authoritarian, usually self-proclaimed leader. This leader claims to have a special relationship with God or with some other supernatural force, a relationship that imbues him or her with special powers."*- ***A Parents Guide to Teens and Cults,*** by Larry Dumont and Richard Altesman, The PIA Press, 1989, page 12.  |

One man jokingly wrote that a cult was any group he didn't like. He was pointing out the tendency to use prejudicial or inflammatory language to describe those with whom we disagree. People sometimes throw the word cult around out of fear of the unknown and as a way to avoid open-minded investigation.

Of course, there are religious cults that are spiritually, emotionally, and sometimes physically dangerous and damaging. Deciding what is a cult and what isn't can be difficult because there is not one, all encompassing, definition which can be applied in every situation. While using care to avoid unsafe religious groups, we also need to resist the temptation to label as a cult any group we aren't familiar with or which seems different from what we are used to. Because some people are unfamiliar with the church of Christ they have wondered if we are a cult.

Here are some reasons why we do not fit the cult description:

* **We do not have a human leader. Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22)**
* **We do not claim to have special revelation (knowledge) which others do not have. We believe the Bible - not man - is our sole authority (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
* **Reason from Scripture is used in teaching, not pressure, manipulation, or control tactics (Isaiah 1:18)**
* **Every member is to study and understand God's word, not following any man or any group ideology. (1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:15)**
* **We do not isolate ourselves, but are to be in the world while not being of the world (John 17:14-15; Matthew 5:13-14)**
* **We are not closed minded, but are willing to "test all things" to see if they match Scripture. (1 Thessalonians 5:21)**
* **We are not antagonistic, but believe, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:18)**
* **Zeal is expressed in ways controlled by God in the Scriptures (Romans 10:2)**
* **Without exception, we are committed to God's high standard of morality, refusing to compromise anything revealed in the N.T.**

Being a follower of Christ has always been about faith based on personal study and investigation. True faith and its expression may seem strange, even extreme, to those who are unfamiliar with faith as revealed in the New Testament. Different or devoted does not mean cultic.

Our desire to do what is right in the sight of God must drive us to search for and find His true will as revealed in the Bible. These are the people you will find in God's true church. A cult tries to decide for you ­ God's people want you to look to God in His word to decide for you!

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By Al Diestelkamp

Why is it that at sporting events, musical concerts and dramatic performances, the choice seats are near the front, but at worship people (even many Christians) actually prefer to sit as far back as possible?

At secular events people are quite willing to cheer and applaud along with strangers seated right next to them, while at worship many Christians do all they can to put as much space as possible between themselves and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

I fear the answer to my question is that many Christians do not want to get highly involved in worship, and find comfort in being away from "the action."

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Saul [1 Samuel 28:8]

2. Leah [Genesis 29:21-25]

3. David [1 Samuel 21:12-22:1]

4. Sarai, wife of Abram [Genesis 12:10-20]

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