**SERVICE SCHEDULE for June 12, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader-** Mark Tally **Song Leader**- Buck Phillips

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

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

**-- Assisting** – Josiah Phillips

**-- Assisting –** Buck Phillips

**-- Assisting –** Eli Hickey

**-- Scripture –** Josiah Phillips **Scripture** – Josiah Phillips

**Closing Prayer-** Andy Fuller **Closing Prayer**- Ron Bailey

**Wednesday Night – June 15, 2022**

**First Prayer–** Buck Phillips

**Song Leader** – Bill McIlvain

**Invitation –** Eli Hickey

**Closing Prayer –** Andy Fuller

**June 26 Evening Mid-Year Song & Prayer Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **June** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **19** | Johnson | Please Be Considerate |
| **26** | German | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts**

**We can understand why some children are afraid of the dark. They are fearful because they can’t see what is there. But why would some adults be afraid of the light? It’s because they don’t want to see what’s there! “ But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light…” Ephesians 5:13**

**You will never find Jesus so precious as when the world is one vast howling wilderness. Then he is like a rose blooming in the midst of the desolation, a rock rising above the storm. - Robert Murray McCheyne**

**Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope.**

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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**

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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**June 12, 2****022**

***Hugs and Kisses***

1. What soldier murdered a man while kissing him?

2. What prophet talked about kissing calves?

3. Who kissed Absalom after his two years in exile?

4. What two hostile brothers met and kissed each other, weeping all the way?

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***Unexpected Love***

**By David Diestelkamp**

"Love is" The unending quest of romantics, philosophers, and songwriters is to try to adequately finish that sentence. Each of us probably has an idealized picture of love; people, places and things all coming together in a perfect, indescribable moment. And while we know that, in reality, love is not always running through a field of daisies toward the person of our dreams, romantic visions tend to dance in our heads when real love is what we desire and look for.

Now think for a moment about injustice, terrible loss, and suffering pain and death. With this picture any thoughts of love we were having probably evaporated. Where did all those thoughts of love go? Well, unfair judgments at a trial, the loss of one's possessions, abandonment, pain and death are not remotely a part of anyone's love story-- but they are part of God's! 

**Continued**

***"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16).*** Love is not defined by butterfly feelings in our stomachs, but by the scourging, the physical agony, and blood of Christ who died for us. We would like a prettier picture of His love for us--with Him at sunset, hand in hand on a hilltop, calm, picturesque, warm, fuzzy and nice, but these are not how ultimate love shows itself.

The truth is that the application of love is often quite ugly. Love that sticks around only for romance or pleasure is no more than fantasy or lust. Of Christ, Isaiah prophesied, ***"He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him" (Isaiah 53:2).*** Oh, the religious world has managed to clean Him up for marketing purposes, but that's not the Messiah revealed in Scripture. For us, He was ***"despised and rejected a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3).*** He was wounded and bruised, oppressed and afflicted, taken from prison and judgment (Isaiah 53:5, 7, 8). He sweat in agony for us, was beaten, spat on, stripped and then crucified--hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16)--for us.

Then, for us, He endured the pain and humiliation on the cross for six hours, then He gave up His spirit into His Father's hands. So, can there be any doubt? ***"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).***

Now here is an interesting twist to God's love story: ***"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12).*** In other words, we are to do more than acknowledge and thankfully benefit from God's love, we are to emulate it in our dealings with others. We tend to be willing to do this until application turns ugly and distasteful, it is actually at this point that we have the opportunity to demonstrate true godliness, loving like God loves.

If we find it more difficult to love our brother than to love God it is because we are loving like the world. In the words of Jesus: ***"But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same" (Luke 6:32).*** God loves us. In fact, He loved us first (1 John 4:19) and when we weren't loveable (Colossians 1:21-22). He forgives us, is good to us, blesses us, and promises us a home with Him for eternity.

Loving someone like this doesn't take much. But loving our brother is quite another matter. Our brother isn't perfect. He doesn't always love us first, he doesn't always forgive, do good, bless or fulfill his promises. In our anger and disappointment we use his offenses not to love him, while still claiming to love our good God. God says to us: ***"If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:20-21).***

There is a very strong temptation for us to try to excuse hatred based on what a person does. They lied, they cheated, they stole. At times like this, words like injustice, terrible loss, suffering pain and death ought to echo in our ears.

***"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6:27)*** must become more real to us. Jesus was not just talking about some threatening foreign nation or someone we simply fear. He commands us to love those who actually touch our lives with pain and even violence. They hate us, slander us, rob us, humiliate us, inflict emotional and physical pain, and kill us--yet, like God, we are to respond only in love.

When the application of love becomes difficult, even ugly, we are tempted to excuse our hatred by saying, "I'm only human." Of course, that's not accurate, we are created in the image of God and therefore able to understand and choose to imitate His characteristics. Often saying, "I'm only human" is our way of really saying, "I'm going to do what my carnal, human, side desires," or "I'm going to act like the world in this situation."

Jesus said that it would be our love for each other that would tell the world that we are His disciples (John 13:35). Not simply loving the lovable, but loving, forgiving and blessing, when the world would not, says we are not of the world, but of God. Jesus said, "Love like this" and then died for us. Refusal to do so, no matter who it is or what they have done, is to not know God (1 John 4:8)

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Joab [2 Samuel 20:9-10]

2. Hosea [13:2] who was referring to calf idols

3. David [2 Samuel 14:33]

4. Jacob & Esau [Genesis 33:4]

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