**SERVICE SCHEDULE for July 3, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

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

**-- Comments** – Jason LaChappelle **Comments** – Darryl Griffing

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

**-- Assisting** – Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

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

**Closing Prayer-** Roger German **Closing Prayer**- Curran LaChappelle

**Wednesday Night – July 6, 2022**

**First Prayer–** Brandon Esque

**Song Leader** – Ben Wofford

**Invitation –** Cliff Davis

**Closing Prayer** **–** Roger German

**July 24 Evening Service –** Eli Hickey

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **July** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **3** | MacQuilliam | Please Be Considerate |
| **10** | Griffing | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts**

**Passion in and of itself is neutral. It can be helpful or it can be harmful. Love and joy certainly are beneficial. Hatred and anger cause much harm. The powerful emotion of passion among Christians can be constructive or destructive.**

**We must not offer people a system of redemption, a set of insights and principles. We offer people a Redeemer. ― Paul David Tripp, Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands**

**Was it you or I who stumbled first? It does not matter. The one of us who finds the strength to get up first, must help the other. ― Vera Nazarian, The Perpetual Calendar of Inspiration**

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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**

**July 3, 2****022**

***Priest Trivia***

1. Who was the only priest to escape when Saul slaughtered the eighty-five priests of Nob?

2. What priest found the Book of the Law in the temple during Josiah's reign?

3. What two men were high priests during David's reign?

4. When Adonijah tried to grab the throne of Israel, what priest took his side?

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***Bundling Sin***

**Submitted By Jim Jonas**

A marketing tool in the telecommunications industry is “bundling”; i.e., selling a package of services for one price. One might contract with a company for cell phone service, satellite TV and high speed internet for one “low” price. The consumer has the convenience of one bill and the company benefits from three utility commitments.

But the telecommunications folks aren’t the first ones to think of bundling. The devil thought of it first. You see, while it is possible to slip and fall into an isolated sin here and there, sin often comes in bundles. Take David for example. The sin with Bathsheba (adultery) brought some unseemly friends along: lying and deceit, encouragement to drunkenness, murder of a loyal bodyguard. The more sin Satan can bundle together, the more powerful his hold on us.

***Bundling Sin***

**Continued**

A single transgression might be like the cough, sore throat, fever or lethargy that is merely the manifestation of a deeper infection within.

In the case of David the initial sin created other issues that had to be resolved sinfully if, that is, he was unwilling to own up to the initial sin. And he wasn’t willing. And often times, neither are we. Lying and deceit are the natural by-products of covering our illicit behavior. If someone gets close to exposing us, the protective instinct may make us attack that person as a diversionary tactic or to make them back off. So, sin often begets sin.

Another consideration is that sin springs from a character flaw that can be manipulated to produce sin in other ways. For example, greed and covetousness can be turned into evil speech toward others more successful than ourselves. It can become debt that burdens the soul and creates marital conflict. It can drive a man to work overtime and take him away from the family, or it can make Mom compromise her most important responsibility at home. It can short-change the Lord; defraud taxes; excite anxieties about the future; promote gambling, even kill.

Too, sin is progressive. Like Lay’s potato chips, it’s hard to eat just one. Satan often has to break down so many barriers to get us to sin that once we are weakened, other sins pour in before we can stop the flood. I have known young Christians who have worked so hard to change their lives, fight against well entrenched sins, resist their conditioning toward pleasure … only to see them “fall off the wagon” and be overtaken. The process then has to be repeated all over again just to regain lost ground. If this happens several times, it is easy to become demoralized and give up altogether.

Let us not be fooled by the wonderful grace that God has given to us. ***“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!” (Romans 6:15).*** We cannot take a casual approach toward sin thinking that if we do commit it, grace is there to bail us out. Having a realization of the corrosive and explosive nature of sin, we should do our best to hold it at bay, keep it out of our lives: ***“resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).*** Sin is an affront to God, a violation of His law, a threat to our fellowship and spiritual well-being. It is not just an “oops” that we can casually dismiss by a generic “forgive us of our sins.”

And as painful as it may be, let us nip sin in the bud by admission and confession. David’s delay in taking responsibility for his sin weakened his spirit further (Psalm 32:3-5) and made him susceptible to greater offences.

Repentance is often more than a quick fix. So powerful is sin that we often must stop, take stock, and significantly reorder our thinking on how we got into the mess we’re in – and how to avoid it in the future.

***The Health & Wealth Gospel***

**By Edwin Crozier**

Just turn on your television to any number of religious programs and you will hear some preacher and his wife telling you if you send a donation as a seed of your faith to them, God will bless you one hundredfold.

Perhaps the best response I ever heard to that was a friend who called a televangelist’s hotline and said, “If you really believe it works that way, why don’t you send me a donation as a seed of your faith and wait for the Lord to bless you one hundredfold?”

Yet, we have passages like ***2 Corinthians 9:6-15*** which seem to suggest if we give, God will bless us. After all, it does say, ***“He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”*** Then there is Proverbs 11:24-25, which says***, “There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.”*** Don’t these passages teach if we give, God will bless us?

No and yes. Sadly, those televangelists encourage us to give as if it were some kind of paying investment. They are not actually asking us to give out of generosity, but out of greed. In their system, we only give in the hope to receive more. God has not promised to bless that kind of giving.

Notice how Paul followed up his sowing statement in ***2 Corinthians 9:8 “God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.”***

Do not misunderstand. There will be some wealthy among the Lord’s people. Yes, they are allowed to enjoy the fruit of their labor (Ecclesiastes 5:18). However, as 1 Timothy 6:17-19 says, those who are blessed with wealth are to be generous and share, not putting their faith in their riches.

If God blesses us with material goods, He expects us to be a blessing to others. When we fulfill that role faithfully, God is willing to bless us further that we may be a further blessing to others. No, this is not a one way ticket to health and wealth. But it is a one way ticket to heaven.

Let us praise God from whom all blessings flow. ***Proverbs 3:9*** ***Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce.***

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Abiathar [1 Samuel 22:20]

2. Hilkiah [2 Kings 22:8]

3. Abiathar & Zadok [2 Samuel 20:26]

4. Abiathar [1 Kings 1:7]

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