**SERVICE SCHEDULE for September 4, 2022**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Darryl Griffing **Prayer-** Darryl Griffing

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

**-- Comments** – Buck Phillips **Comments** – Ben Wofford

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

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** Brandon Esque  **Scripture –** Ron Bailey

**-- Scripture** – Phillip Dorn

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

**Wednesday Night – September 7, 2022**

**First Prayer–**Brandon Esque

**Song Leader** – Roger German

**Invitation –** Cliff Davis

**Closing Prayer –** Curran LaChappelle

**September 25 Evening Service** – Darryl Griffing

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **September** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **4** | Hickey | Please Be Considerate |
| **11** | Griffing | Clean the area around your seat |

**Good Thoughts –**

**One of the greatest advantages of singleness is the potential for greater focus on Christ and accomplishing work for Him. ― Elizabeth George, Breaking the Worry Habit...Forever!**

**Start where you are-do anything you can do, and do everything you can do, until you find something you must do! That something is probably your spiritual gift. ― Jim George**

**We are citizens of heaven. We must conduct ourselves, worthy of our calling, faith in Christ. ― Lailah Gifty Akita, Pearls of Wisdom**

**Your calling should bless and affect the lives of others for good.**

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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**

**September 4, 2****022**

***They Spied***

1. What counselor of Absalom was actually a spy for David?

2. Who sent two spies to Jericho?

3. What epistle warns against those sent in to “spy out our liberty”?

4. What Canaanite city did spies find the entrance of?

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***Finishing Strong***

**By David Maxson**

***Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once..." [Judges 16:28]***

How did Samson end up in the "Hall of Fame of Faith" (Hebrews 11:32)? Samson was arrogant, rebellious, and self-centered. How does he end up memorialized in a list of the greatest men and women who ever lived?

Samson prays at the end of his life. He realizes that the source of his strength is God. He prays to have his strength back just one last time.

For all the sins in our life, we can overcome them all by God's grace. The Christian race is a marathon, not a sprint. Winning the race is not about flawless perfection, but about patient endurance. This race is not about speed or getting the best time. It's about finishing.

And that may be the best thing we can say about Samson. He finished. For all of his blunders and failures, he was victorious in the end.

Samson was not a fast runner or even an average runner for most of his race. But he finished strong, and in the end that's all that matters. 

***The Inhibition of Good Will***

**By Jim Jonas**

The woman looked to be in her mid-sixties. She was working in her front yard as I was passing by on my morning walk. No man was in sight as she picked up a blower, proceeded to a step ladder positioned under the gutter and began to climb it. I thought to myself, “She’s not really going to try blowing those leaves out of the gutter by herself …”.

I paused and watched, expecting at any moment that someone was going to have to call 911. As she neared the top of the ladder, I called out, “Can I help you with that?” “No,” she replied, “I’m ok.” With some trepidation for the woman’s safety I carried on with my walk.

As this woman was needlessly putting herself at great risk, it bothered me that my offer to help had been rebuffed. And I was in no position to force the issue. But on the other hand, how could I blame her for refusing the help of a total stranger given the threat of random violence in our society?

I began to wonder what might have gone through her mind. (I admit that I don’t know the real reason that she didn’t accept my offer, but I don’t think it was because she needed the exercise.) “Who is this stranger? What does he really want? Is he trying to find out if I am alone? Will he attack me? Does he want to see if I have anything of value in my house? Will he come back later to rob me?”

The proliferation of house alarms, defensive fire arms, window bars and other protective devices signal our concern about becoming the victims of crime. So I understood her reluctance to accept help from a stranger, but I was frustrated that a simple act of service could not be performed because of the moral climate in which we live.

From there I began to think about the residual effects of sin, the “fallout” of evil. Sin does great damage in its initial commission: psychological/physical damage inflicted on the victim; the economic costs of stolen merchandise, law enforcement resources, courts, prisons, rehabilitation programs, insurance premiums, etc. A secondary effect is the suppression of goodness by making those who offer reluctant or recipients resistant. The world is more callous and more suffering goes unrelieved because of sin’s tendency to inhibit good will.

There are many ways in which sin neutralizes goodness. One way is through sheer fear: Since evil recognizes no decency, righteousness must assess the risk in expressing itself. Sometimes the risk is unacceptable (a woman stopping on an interstate to render roadside aid, perhaps). But we err when fear in a matter of judgment is transferred to a matter of principle:

⇒ Rahab accepted the risk of hiding the spies (Joshua 2).

⇒ Obadiah accepted the risk of Jezebel’s wrath when he hid the prophets of God (1 Kings 18).

⇒ Paul accepted the risk of arrest or worse when taking the offering to Jerusalem (Acts 21:13).

While there is risk in offering help to others, let’s not surrender to let the threat of adversity or the reluctance of the scared. Our faith in God’s protection must outweigh our fear as we try to counterbalance the evil of this world.

Perhaps the bigger danger in this present climate of suspicion and anxiety is that we will not offer assistance on the assumption that it will not be welcomed anyway. Though I was frustrated that I could not help the woman with her gutters, I was glad that I had offered. Let’s do our part in returning civility and compassion to the public arena. ***“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10).***

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Hushai [2 Samuel 15:32-37]

2. Joshua [Joshua 2:1]

3. [Galatians 2:4]

4. Bethel [Judges 1:23-25]

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