**SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 12, 2023**

**Announcements for the Week** Darryl Griffing

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

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

**-- Comments** – Cliff Davis **Comments** – Curran LaChappelle

**-- Assisting –** Andy Fuller **Communion** – Ben Wofford

**-- Assisting** – Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Eli Hickey

**-- Assisting –** Jared Davis

**-- Scripture –** Josiah Phillips **Scripture** – Dan Woodward

**Closing Prayer-** Phillip Dorn **Closing Prayer**- Phillip Dorn

**Wednesday Night – March 15, 2023**

**First Prayer–** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader** – Buck Phillips

**Invitation –** Eli Hickey

**Closing Prayer –** Andy Fuller

**March 19 Evening Service –** Andy Fuller

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **March** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **12** | Goddard | Please Be Considerate |
| **19** | Tally | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – Hebrews 11:6**

**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

**Good Thoughts –**

**True rest is not that of torpor, but that of harmony; it is not refusing the struggle, but conquering in it; not resting from duty, but finding rest in it. - Frederick W. Robertson**

**Every obnoxious act is a cry for help.- Zig Ziglar**

**Bumps are the things we climb on.- Warren Wiersbe**

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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 Elders@covingtonchurchofchrist.com**

**Visit us on the web: www.covingtonchurchofchrist.com**



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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**March 12, 2****023**

***More Encounters With Angels***

1. Who was miraculously delivered while chained to 2 soldiers?

2. What captain of the palace guard did Joseph serve under?

3. What Gittite soldier supported David during Absalom’s rebellion?

4. What king had Nebuzaradan as commander of his troops?

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***Diligently Seeking God***

**By Gary Henry**

***But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)***

Our seeking of God must be diligent. What does this mean? It means that we must give ourselves to the quest for God with a priority and a passion that we don't invest in any other pursuit. God must be first in our hearts. We must be ready to sacrifice anything else -- indeed *all* else -- to see His face. Our hearts must be purged of any conflicting interest or competing desire. ***"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8).*** In our longing for God we must be utterly sincere, and in our seeking of God we must be passionately committed. He deserves no less than our all.

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***Diligently Seeking God***

**Continued**

God's making of the world is such that we find it necessary to seek and to search for Him, but in truth ***"He is not far from each one of us" (Acts 17:27).*** His hiddenness in this present broken world is not meant to hinder us from finding Him, but to entice us.

As He whets our appetite for Himself, God is weaning us away from our sinful, self-sufficient rebellion. He is teaching us to love Him.

With convicting evidences of His power and loving tokens of His goodness, He is drawing us toward His eternal presence***. "I drew them with gentle cords, with bands of love" (Hosea 11:4).*** It is God's good pleasure to be found by all who long for Him in honest, obedient love.

God is not neutral with regard to the inclination of our hearts. He desires that we find Him. He yearns for those who delight in Him***. "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8).*** Yet there is a danger: we must not deceive ourselves that we are seeking *God* if in fact it is only certain blessings *from* God that we seek.

Resisting the tendency to focus on ourselves, we must learn to seek *Him,* simply and contentedly. When we diligently do so, our reward will be God Himself and He will fill our deepest longings according to the design of His own love.

Having sought God earnestly, we will be enriched by the joy of a heart that overflows with His glory.

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***Home Renovation***

**By David Maxson**

***I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. [Galatians 2:20]***

The Christian life is like a home renovation.

* ***We are a rundown home in disrepair that is bought by God (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 6:20; 1 Peter 1:18-20).***
* ***Christ then takes up residence in our hearts and begins the work of renovating us in his image (Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:5-11).***

There is, however, an important area where this analogy breaks down. When a home is purchased, the previous owners move out before the new owners move in. Does that happen with us when Christ resides in our hearts? Do we not still exercise some measure of control?

Imagine the difficulty of moving into a place and the old owners are still there. Before you can make any changes, you must first get permission from the old owner. You've bought the house and you hold the title, but the old owner still says what can and cannot be done.

We would never agree to buy a house under those conditions. When we buy a home we demand that the previous owners move out.

Why would we think Jesus would be any different? When Jesus dwells in our hearts he demands there be a spiritual eviction. We must relinquish control and allow him the freedom to change anything he wants.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Peter [Acts 12:6]

2. Potiphar [Genesis 39:1]

3. Ittai [1 Kings 16:9-20]

4. Nebuchadnezzar [2 Kings 25:8]

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