**SERVICE SCHEDULE for April 16, 2023**

**Announcements for the Week** Buck Phillips

**Morning Service Evening Service**

**Prayer-** Buck Phillips **Prayer-** Buck Phillips

**Song Leader-** Mark Tally **Song Leader**- Ben Wofford

**-- Comments** – Andy Fuller **Comments** – Andy Fuller

**-- Assisting –** Eli Hickey **Communion** – Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting** – Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** Ernesto Almazan

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

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

**Wednesday Night – April 19, 2023**

**First Prayer–** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader** – Buck Phillips

**Invitation –** Eli Hickey

**Closing Prayer –** Andy Fuller

**April 23 Evening Service –** Darryl Griffing

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **April** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **16** | Tucker | Please Be Considerate |
| **23** | Almazan | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – John 4:24**

**God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**

**Good Thoughts –**

**Giving our first to the Lord involves giving him the sacrifice of our time to remember Him in the way He requested. It is very disheartening to think that someone would turn their back on the One who gave them everything because they were on vacation.**

**Satan must get a lot of satisfaction from those who put Jesus lower on the list of their priorities. Every week he can get you to forget Jesus is a good one for Satan!**

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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**



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

**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**April 16, 2****023**

***Rings On Their Fingers***

1. Who did King Ahasuerus of Persia give his ring to?

2. When Daniel was sealed up in the lion’s den, who placed his signet ring on the seal?

3. For what did the Israelites give up their rings and other jewelry?

4. After the death of Haman, who received the Persian king’s signet ring?

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***A Thousand Times – NO!***

**By David Diestelkamp**

Ever notice that you can say "no" a thousand times, but all those no's are canceled by one "yes"? "No, you can't have a cookie, can't have a cookie, can't have a cookie! Okay, yes!" The cookie will be eaten! To concede and fail you don't have to say yes as many times as you must say no to remain steadfast and succeed.

A thousand no's to fornication are deleted by one yes that robs one of virtue and virginity. A thousand no's to adultery are swept away by a yes that destroys family, home and soul. A thousand no's to drugs are erased by a yes that opens the door to all kinds of destruction and excess.

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***A Thousand Times – NO!***

**Continued**

A thousand no's to stealing are forgotten by a yes on our record when we stand before the law. A thousand no's to pornography are overwhelmed by a yes that writes indelible images in the mind. It applies across the board to all sin.

While it is certainly true that forgiveness in Christ is available for any sinful yes decision we make, this must not be seen as license to make that errant decision even once. We are called to completely die to sin (Romans 6) - it is to have no part in us, or us in it.

Parents often tire of the "May I have a cookie?" question and finally concede with a yes. Kids know this. Satan knows this. We tire of saying no and looking different from others. We tire of our "no" answer causing abstinence from activities that appear pleasurable and fun. We tire of always being the one to say no. In time, sin nags us to the point where we finally want to say, "Okay, yes just this time." How much more can God expect us to resist-how many more times must we say no?

The Holy Spirit reminds us, ***"You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin" (Hebrews 12:4).*** We're not just talking about saying no to the point of alienation and missing out on some of life's pleasures. Resisting "to bloodshed, striving against sin" means saying no to sin until it kills us! That means a thousand times no to the sin that tempts us from within and from without. And when we have said no a thousand times it is then time to say it a thousand and one times, and more!

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***Playing Small Ball***

**By David Maxson**

***Therefore, my beloved brother, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. [1 Corinthians 15:58]***

In baseball, everyone loves the homerun. Nothing gets the crowd Excited like a long, towering shot over the fence. It scores runs immediately. No need to grind out a long rally. We get instant gratification.

But it's not always the best way to score runs. Sometimes it is better to play "small ball" where you choke up on the bat and cut down on your swing to get on base; where you take a lot of pitches to draw a walk; where you get base runners into scoring position by bunting, hitting to the right side of the diamond, etc.

Guys who try to hit home runs tend to strike out. Sometimes, the last guy you want up at the plate is the guy who is swinging for the fences. If he connects with a big swing he's a hero, but more often than not he goes down on strikes or hits a towering fly out to end the inning.

In evangelism, it's easy to fall in love with the home run. Peter preached one sermon and 3000 were baptized (Acts 2:41). Impressive. Churches try to match this kind of success by planning big events to attract the masses. We want to hit a big one out of the park.

Yet success most often comes from doing the little things; simple things like offering our service to others, listening to those discouraged by life, praying for the lost, slipping God's name into conversation, telling about things you've learned in personal Bible study, standing up when truth is challenged, etc.

Doing those kinds of things consistently over time slowly opens doors for us to share our faith with others, and when a big event comes along, those who have been doing these kinds of things all along have the best chance of getting people to come and listen.

Let’s pray that God will open doors for the word for us today. Help us to recognize the little things we can do to plant seeds each day.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Haman [Esther 3:10-13]

2. The King [Daniel 6:17]

3. As a free will offering for the tabernacle [Exodus 35:22]

4. Mordecai [Esther 8:2-13]

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