**SERVICE SCHEDULE for September 10, 2023**

**Announcements for the Week** Cliff Davis

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

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

**-- Comments** – Darryl Griffing **Comments** – Buck Phillips

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

**-- Assisting** – Jared Davis

**-- Assisting –** Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting –** Cohen Esque

**-- Scripture –** Ernesto Almazan **Scripture** – Josiah Phillips

**Closing Prayer-** Scott Fleming **Closing Prayer**- Ron Bailey

**Wednesday Night – September 13, 2023**

**First Prayer–** Bill McIlvain

**Song Leader** – Eli Hickey

**Invitation –** Andy Fuller

**Closing Prayer –** Brandon Esque

**September 17 Gospel Meeting -** Nolan Glover

**September 24 Evening Song Origin Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **September** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **10** | Tucker | Please Be Considerate |
| **17** | Almazan | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – Psalm 33:10**

**The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing: He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.**

**Gospel Meeting Right Around the Corner – September 17 thru 20**

**We have invited one of the preachers that we supporting to come to Covington in September. Many of you may have heard about Nolan Glover. Now we will have a chance to hear lessons from him. Make every effort to attend this series of scriptural lessons and be sure to bring your friends.**

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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 Office@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**

**September 10, 2****023**

***Trees***

1. What defeated king was buried with his sons under an oak tree?

2. Which tree does Jesus say can be uprooted and thrown into the sea – if one has enough faith?

3. What city was the “city of palm trees”?

4. What trees foliage was found in the carvings inside the temple?

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***A Blessing From A Recession***

**By David Maxson**

***As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace... [1 Peter 4:9]***

Has anything positive come from recessions? If nothing else it has helped us to define what is most important to us. Americans in recent history have grown accustomed to having a lot of discretionary income. Worrying about food and clothing has not been a concern for most of us (Matthew 6)

Though most of us are still nowhere close to starvation, the recession has forced many of us to tighten our budgets. Many have had to make tough choices, not just over whether we go on a vacation this year or not, but whether we continue to help needy Christians and support the preaching of the gospel in a financial way.

***A Blessing From A Recession***

**Continued**

For some, at least, this has made what we give to the Lord more of a sacrifice. Beyond what we put in the collection plate, simple acts of service and hospitality have become more of a sacrifice for us. We may not yet be in the position of the widow who put in her last two mites, but we are at least coming closer to offering to God something that is costly.

Ask our Lord God to teach us to put Him first in everything.

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**By Leslie Diestelkamp**

What is our goal anyway? Is it to fight against all evil? Indeed, this is a task we must perform, even though it may be a very distasteful one to any who truly try to imitate Christ. It is quite inconceivable that one of His disciples would delight in any kind of fight. Yet, it is so necessary. If we fail, sin and false doctrine will tread down the influence of righteousness. If we refuse to fight, Satan will run loose without restraint. We must ever remember that the only soldiers God has--the only fighters against the devil--are true Christians. We are God's army. Fight, we must!

But is fighting our objective? Have we been redeemed to fight? Were we purchased with the precious blood of Jesus to be warriors? Contrariwise, ***"We are laborers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). We are "Created in Christ Jesus unto good works" (Ephesians 2:10).***

We are builders. Indeed, we must take heed how we build (1 Corinthians 3:10), but we must not fail to build. In the lesson of the vine and the branches (John 15), Jesus did not portray the disciple as a fighter, but as a builder. He did not say that one must fight to stay on the vine, but He did say that if we fail to bear fruit we will be cut off.

In their efforts to build the walls of Jerusalem, it is said of Nehemiah and his companions, ***"everyone with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon. For the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side, and so builded..." (Nehemiah 4:17-18).*** There was no use for them to work hard if they did not keep the enemy driven off. On the other hand, their work was building! The Bible does not say, "And so fought they," but it does say, ***"So built we the wall" (Nehemiah 4:6).***

Let us not fail to put the emphasis in the proper place. If the church prospers in our eyes, but is not kept pure and true, all our work is in vain. If the church is not exactly what the Lord expects it to be, all our labor is useless. On the other hand, let us not fight for the sake of fighting. Let us not be prevented in the work of building by an antagonistic spirit that only keeps us in a fight and ever keeps us out of work!

When the forces of denominationalism threaten; when the power of infidelity strikes; and even when sectarianism, modernism and institutionalism appear in the church, fight we must, but to build is still our primary task.

Even if all the evil forces could be overcome (and they can't), the harvest of saved souls cannot be gathered in unless we have sown the good seed and cultivated it well.

A great and mighty people have emerged from years of fighting error. Our strength is now challenged for "***The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few..." (Luke 10:2).*** Workmen--builders--are needed today. Sometimes they may have to fight while they build, but everywhere and under every circumstance they must build.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Saul [1 Chronicles 10:12]

2. The sycamine [Luke 17:6]

3. Jericho [2 Chronicles 28:15]

4. The Palm [1 Kings 6:29]

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