**SERVICE SCHEDULE for December 10, 2023**

**Announcements for the Week Buck Phillips**

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader**- Eli Hickey **Song Leader**- Bill McIlvain

**-- Comments** – Jason LaChappelle **Comments** – Cliff Davis

**-- Assisting –** Ernesto Almazan **Communion** – Ben Wofford

**-- Assisting** – Russ Sollars

**-- Assisting** – Cliff Davis

**-- Assisting** – Gary Scott

**-- Scripture** – Dean Shacklock **Scripture** – Ron Bailey

**Closing Prayer-** Dan Woodward **Closing Prayer**- Phillip Dorn

**Wednesday Night – December 13, 2023**

**First Prayer–** John MacQuilliam

**Song Leader** – Brandon Anderson

**Invitation –** Russ Sollars

**Closing Prayer –** Roger German

**December 185 Morning Service –** Eli Hickey

**December 24 Evening - Prayers & Song Service**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **December** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **10** | Davis | Please Be Considerate |
| **17** | McIlvain | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – James 1:26**

**If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does no bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless.**

**Good Thoughts**

**Consideration is the basis of etiquette, and it starts at home. If you can't show consideration to your spouse, child or family member any consideration you show outside is shallow and a farce.**

**Regret only changes your thinking. It cannot change what has been done. Thinking before doing can keep regret at bay.**

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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**

**December 10, 2****023**

***Food, Food, Food***

1. Who was famous as an eater of locusts?

2. What four faithful young men refused to eat the rich foods of the kings of Babylon?

3. What prized animal was killed for food when the prodigal son returned home?

4. What incident in David’s life caused people to bring him all manner of foods to eat?

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***Don’t Let Christmas Cripple Your Christianity***

**By Edwin Crozier**

The day is past, but the memories will linger. Sadly, the memories are not always happy. Despite Andy Williams telling us Christmas is the “most wonderful time of the year,” for many it is the most depressing. We must not let Christmas cripple our Christianity with depression.

Some become depressed because they did not get what they wanted. Some because they got exactly what they wanted but it did not bring them happiness as they expected. Some because the bills for all they purchased start showing up. Some because they are not able to spend this time of year with a deceased loved one. Whatever the case, many depart December with depression.

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***Don’t Let Christmas Cripple Your Christianity***

**Continued**

Sadness is no sin. But lasting depression can cause serious problems in our lives. Depression turns us inward, focusing on self. When we devote our thoughts to ourselves, we lose sight of others.

Philippians 2:3-4 reminds us we must always put others above ourselves, viewing their interests as more important than our own. We cannot follow that passage when we cannot see past our own noses.

Second, when depression turns us inward, we may forget God. If we do not forget Him, we may believe He has forgotten us. Even worse; we may believe He does not even exist. Too many have allowed self-pity to turn them from the Lord.

We can destroy this depression, instead of allowing it to cripple us with the following plan.

First, we must grow our contentment. If we allow materialism a place in our lives we will always face depression over what we do not have. Contentment, however, allows for peace and joy because we are satisfied in our present circumstance (Philippians 4:11). This contentment should begin with remembering God’s ever abiding presence and turning to Him through prayer and Bible study.

Second, as an outgrowth of contentment, we must not let debt be part of our Christmas. The retailers are telling us we deserve their products.

If we deserve them, we have earned them. If we have earned them, we will not have to borrow to pay for them. So much depression can be avoided if we simply celebrate within our means.

Third, seek to help others. No matter the cause of our depression the number one cure is to turn our focus upon others. When we intentionally follow Philippians 2:3-4, we forget our “problems” in the pursuit to help others with theirs.

Even if we recognize this time of year has no real basis in the Bible, this time of year ought to be a happy one. We must not let Christmas cripple our spirituality. Rather, as always, we must glorify God in all we do.

***Guest Rooms***

**By David Maxson**

***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me." [Revelation 3:20]***

When we invite guests to stay in our homes, we want them to feel like our house is their house. They are welcome to use anything they need. We make provisions for them. We have plenty of food for them to eat. Fresh linens and towels are provided. We want them to feel comfortable and at home.

Though we open up our house to our guests, sometimes there is a room we close off. It may be because there are personal things in there we don't want them to see. Or we didn't have time to clean up before they arrived and we don't want them to see the mess. But for whatever reason, that room is off limits.

Our heart is like a big house with many rooms in it. When we come to the Lord in faith, we are inviting him to dwell in our heart, and he is not an ordinary friend to us but a special guest. More than anyone else in our life, we want him to feel at home in our heart.

But sometimes we close off rooms to him. We have things we don't want him to see or we don't want changed. We have bitterness, malice, or envy toward a rival. We are chained to an addiction battling with drugs or alcohol or pornography. We have an illicit relationship we are keeping to ourselves.

However, Jesus has a policy about rooms we close off to him: ***he won't stay!*** Paul said***, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)*** Jesus Christ will reside in every part, in every room in our heart or he won't stay at all. It's all or nothing with Jesus.

So what have we closed off to him? He's standing outside knocking...

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**Answers from page 1**

1. John the Baptist [Matthew 3:4]

2. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego [Daniel 1:3-16]

3. The fatted calf [Luke 15:23]

4. His flight from the rebellious Absalom [2 Samuel 17:22-29]

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