**SERVICE SCHEDULE for January 21, 2024**

**Announcements for the Week Buck Phillips**

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader**- Mark Tally **Song Leader**- Bill McIlvain

**-- Comments** – Russ Sollars **Comments** – John MacQuilliam

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

**-- Assisting** – Andy Fuller

**-- Assisting** – Jared Davis

**-- Assisting** – Gary Scott

**-- Scripture** – Brandon Anderson **Scripture** – Dan Woodward

**Closing Prayer-** Eli Hickey **Closing Prayer**- Russ Sollars

**Wednesday Night – January 24, 2024**

**First Prayer–** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader** – Cohen Esque

**Invitation –** Eli Hickey

**Closing Prayer –**Andy Fuller

**January 21 Evening –** BenWofford

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **January** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **21** | German | Please Be Considerate |
| **28** | MacQuilliam | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – Luke 6:46**

**But why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not so the things I say?**

**Good Thoughts**

**As is typical of God, he calls his people into freedom in the most unlikely place. ― Mark Galli,**

**God chose to save you for a purpose. If your idea is not against your conscience or the will of God, go for it. ― Sunday Adelaja**

**You are God’s masterpiece; and as long as you answer to His purpose for you, with faith and in prayer, He can never fail you. ― Chinonye J. Chidolue**

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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**

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**Elders: Jason LaChappelle, Bill McIlvain**

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

**January 21, 2024**

***Horses and Horsemen***

1. What book of the Old Testament contains a hymn celebrating drowned horses?

2. What NT author had a vision of locusts that looked like horses?

3. What evil queen was executed by Jerusalem’s Horse Gate?

4. What leader was told by God to cripple his enemies’ horses?

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***What Is Our Hope?***

**By David Maxson**

***In him you also... were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. [Ephesians 1:13-14]***

To some, heaven is a place up in the sky where we'll float around on the clouds and play harps. Others have a more biblical picture in their mind of a city with a golden street and pearly gates (as described in Revelation 21-22).

But when Paul thought of his hope he could think of only one thing (or should I say one Person). He thought of God***. "Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)*** 

***What Is Our Hope?***

**Continued**

Consider our text. As much as any other passage we could go to, this should help define for us what our hope truly is. What is the Holy Spirit called here? He is called a guarantee or an earnest. Think about it, if the down payment of our inheritance is the Holy Spirit, then what should we conclude the full payment is going to be?

A relationship with God. And we could hope for nothing greater than this.

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***Heavenly Power In Human Relations***

**By W, Frank Walton**

***"Just as you want others to do for you, do the same for them." (Luke 6:31)***

Jesus gave us the "golden rule" of all ethics. Imagine what a wonderful world it would be if this was actually practiced!

Christopher Hitchens [an atheist] said that Christianity's ethics are no better than other world religions. He attempted to show that what Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount about treating others is essentially no different than other major religious teachings. Well, let's see…

**Judaism:** Jewish Rabbi Hillel said: "What you hate yourself, do not to your neighbor. This is the whole Law. The rest is commentary." (Talmud, Shabbat 31a)

**Confucius:** "Do nothing to your neighbor which afterward you would not have your neighbor do to you." (Analets 15:23)

**Hinduism**: "This is the sum of duty: do nothing unto others which would cause you pain if done to you." (Mahabharata 5.5157)

**Buddhism:** "Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful." (Udana-Varqi 5:18)

**Taoism:** "Regard your neighbor's gain as your own gain, and your neighbor's loss as your own loss." (T'ai Shang Kan Ying P'ien)

**Islam:** "No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself." (Sunnah)

Notice something profoundly different in Jesus' teaching versus these other religious teaching? Other religions emphasized simply avoiding harming someone, or at best, wishing for them what you would like for yourself.

Beyond polite ethics, Jesus Christ taught us to actively treat others, in all interactions, as you would want to be treated yourself, if the situation was reversed. This is sacrificial goodwill. This is another way of saying, "*love your neighbor as yourself*" **(Mark 12:31).** Loving God, which empowers love for others, is the highest goal of the New Testament **(Mark 12:30).**

Love is active, outgoing goodwill to seek the highest good of another. Love is undefeatable benevolence of doing them only good and not harm. This selfless altruistic goodwill of love can only be learned and empowered from the God of perfect love and grace **(Ephesians. 5:1-2, 1 John 4:19).** We must be converted from selfish sinners to selfless saints of God. Jesus showed this love by dying on the cross for sinners **(1 John 3:16).**

Agape love was a new concept revealed by the New Testament of Jesus Christ, who taught us to love our neighbors and also our enemies **(Matthew 5:44).** This is not to overlook or empower bad behavior in others but it is always being guided by acting in what is in their ultimate best interest. This empowerment of love comes only from the gospel of Christ. Christianity is truly a heavenly religion.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Exodus – Miriam’s Song [Exodus 15]

2. John [Revelation 9:7]

3. Athaliah [2 Chronicles 23:15]

4. Joshua [Joshua 11:6]

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