**SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 17, 2024**

**Announcements for the Week Darryl Griffing**

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader**- Roger German **Song Leader**- Josiah Phillips

**-- Comments** – Eli Hickey **Comments** – Buck Phillips

**-- Assisting** – Ben Wofford **Communion** – Phillip Dorn

**-- Assisting** – Jared Davis

**-- Assisting** – Cohen Esque

**-- Assisting** – Ron Bailey

**-- Scripture** –Ernesto Almazan **Scripture** – Micah Phillips **Closing Prayer-** Scott Fleming **Closing Prayer**- Darryl Griffing

**Wednesday Night – March 20, 2024**

**First Prayer–** Scott Swann

**Song Leader** – Eli Hickey

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer –** Brandon Esque

**March 24 Evening – Buck Phillips**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **March** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **17** | Shacklock | Please Be Considerate |
| **24** | Phillips | 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 those of you with children know, rational parenting is like the Loch Ness Monster. We all hope it's out there somewhere, but we don't know anyone who has actually discovered it (and if we do come across someone who claims to have found it, deep down we think that person is a little off. ― Holly Sprink**

**I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England.” – John Wesley**

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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**

**March 17, 2024**

***Wonders of Elijah & Elisha***

1. What happened to the children who made fun of Elisha’s bald head?

2. For whom did Elijah supply meal and oil through miraculous means?

3. What did the bones of Elisha do to a dead man?

4. What did Elisha d to make an ax head float to the surface of the water?

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***Belief and Unbelief***

**By Edwin Crozier**

Jesus brought His inner circle down from the Mount of Transfiguration. A crowd surrounded the remaining disciples and the scribes were arguing with them. A man had brought his demon-possessed son to see Jesus but could only find these disciples. He asked them to cast the demon out, but they were not able.

The man said to Jesus, ***“If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us” (Mark 9:22-ESV).*** How different a statement this is from the leper in ***Mark 1:40: “If you will, you can make me clean” (ESV)***. The leper knew the issue was not one of ability, but of willingness. Was Jesus willing? He was willing to cleanse the leper.

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***Belief and Unbelief***

**Continued**

But the man with the demon-possessed son needed to learn a lesson. Jesus responded***, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes” (Mark 9:23-ESV).*** Considering the man’s response, we might easily believe Jesus is saying, “I can do anything if you believe it enough.” That is not His point. Jesus is referring to His earlier statement about the disciples in ***Mark 9:19, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you?”*** Then notice how Jesus responded to the disciples when they asked why they failed. He did not say, “Because the man didn’t believe enough.” He said, “***This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer” (Mark 9:29).*** The disciples had not relied on God. They had not believed enough.

Jesus point was He could do anything because He had faith. Nevertheless, the man realized a rebuke for him as well. He responded to Jesus***, “I believe; help my unbelief” (Mark 9:24).*** This is what the entire book of Mark is about. It is written to people who believe in order to help them with their unbelief. Throughout the entire book of Mark, we can’t help but see over and over again the mistakes of the apostles. They believed, but they needed help with their unbelief.

Is that any different from us? I know it is no different from me. I believe, but I need help with my unbelief. I believe God is real, is good and is love, but sometimes I need help with my unbelief. I believe God has forgiven me and will deliver me from my sins, but sometimes I need help with my unbelief. I believe Jesus came to earth and died for my sins and the Spirit came and revealed the Bible, but sometimes I need help with my unbelief.

Just as with this man, God gives us strength when we seek it, acting based on our faith and not based on our doubts. When the man acted from his faith, Jesus gave him what he needed to grow. God will do the same for us. We sometimes cry out, “Lord I believe, help my unbelief.” In those times, we must act from our faith, not our doubts, and God will give us what we need to grow. God can and God will. Trust Him.

***Making The Devil’s Job Easy***

**By David Maxson**

***But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.***

We make the devil's job so easy sometimes. The devil is afraid when we are loving one another, forgiving each other, showing honor and esteem to our brothers and sisters, etc.

Here are a few things that make the devil happy:

**When we stop communicating.** "It's just easier if we just avoid each other," we reason to ourselves. We believe the lie that as long as we're not talking, we're not fighting, and so things are better that way. Jesus doesn't give us the luxury to do this (see Matthew 5:23-26, 47).

***When we stop caring.*** The Bible teaches us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15). What's the opposite of that? It's not merely a spirit of anger and revenge, but a spirit of indifference.

**When we stop praying.** If we're not bringing these spiritual battles to the throne of God (and conflicts at work, home, and church are a part of spiritual warfare), then we've already lost. Jesus said, ***"apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)***

Pray to God to forgive us for our foolish pride and selfishness. Rebuke us and chasten us till we learn that we are not the center of the universe!

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**Answers from page 1**

1. They were torn apart by two bears [2 Kings 2:23-25]

2. A widow and her son [1 Kings 17:13-16]

3. Brought him back to life [2 Kings 13:20-21]

4. He threw a stick into the water 2 Kings 6:4-7]

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