**SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 24, 2024**

**Announcements for the Week Darryl Griffing**

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

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

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

**-- Assisting** – Andy Fuller **Communion** – Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting** – Jared Davis

**-- Assisting** – Brandon Esque

**-- Assisting** – Gary Scott

**-- Scripture** – Brandon Anderson **Scripture** –Dan Woodward **Closing Prayer-** Eli Hickey **Closing Prayer**- Russ Sollars

**Wednesday Night – March 27, 2024**

**First Prayer–** Phillip Dorn

**Song Leader** – Cohen Esque

**Invitation –** Eli Hickey

**Closing Prayer –** Andy Fuller

**March 24 Evening – Buck Phillips**

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **March** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **24** | Phillips | Please Be Considerate |
| **31** | Hickey | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – Psalm 119:33**

**Teach me, oh Lord, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.**

**Good Thoughts:**

**There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.**

**"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.**

**"Only the Lord’s Commandments." answered the lady.**

**If a church wants a better preacher, it can get one by praying for the one it has. [Robert E. Harris]**

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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 24, 2024**

***Sorcerers, Witches, and So Forth***

1. What emperor had a bevy of magicians and psychics who could not interpret his strange dreams?

2. What prophet called the city of Nineveh the mistress of witchcraft?

3. In what city did Paul find many believers who had formerly dabbled in witchcraft?

4. What queen of Israel practiced witchcraft?

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***Breaking Bread From House To House***

**By Bryan Matthew Dockens**

***“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” (Acts 2:46).*** In addition to frequent public assemblies, the earliest members of the church made time to enjoy common meals with one another. It would behoove modern Christians to do likewise.

“Breaking bread from house to house” provides a worthwhile alternative to sinful influences. The Bible warns us, ***“Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits’” (1st Corinthians 15:33).*** Solomon, too, bespoke the danger of bad company, leading that warning with a suggestion for better habits: ***“He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed” (Proverbs 13:20).*** 

***Breaking Bread From House To House***

**Continued**

Sharing meals with brethren is more than avoiding sinful influences; it is an active and deliberate effort to benefit from better friends. “Breaking bread from house to house” presents opportunities for spiritual development. ***“Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, ‘Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.’ And Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her’” (Luke 10:38-42).*** Although Jesus was an invited guest, the Lord made certain that His visit was about teaching. Attending services in first day of the week are important, but the conversations had in simple living room and kitchen table interaction can be the most informative and encouraging.

“Breaking bread from house to house” gives the future wayward something to miss. When a brother or sister in Christ goes astray, refusing to repent, it is incumbent upon the faithful to “withdraw” from such **(2nd Thessalonians 3:6).** What that amounts to is spelled out by the instructions to the brethren in Corinth “***not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner – not even to eat with such a person” (1st Corinthians 5:11).*** Meals with brethren are benefits lost to those under discipline, making it all the more important to emphasize and participate in these blessings while available; otherwise, what will the wayward miss when they are gone?

“Breaking bread from house to house” means unknown benefits. The Holy Spirit teaches, ***“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels” (Hebrews 13:2)***, apparently referring to an instance in the life of Abraham (Genesis 18). This reminder does not imply, necessarily, that the modern disciple is likely to play host to angels, only that the work of hospitality carries imperceptible benefits; greater works than are initially understood may be done by those willing to welcome others into their homes. Jesus made clear that He takes personally how Christians treat others (Matthew 25:34-40); therefore engaging in and accepting hospitality among brethren is an important part of one’s relationship with Christ. 

***Vicarious Living***

**By David Maxson**

***And Leah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Reuben, for she said, "Because the LORD has looked upon my affliction; for now my husband will love me." [Genesis 29:32]***

Are we guilty of using our children to boost our own self-image?

It's so easy to see in others. Leah and Rachel's motives could not be more obvious, giving their children names which meant: "***Now this time my husband will be attached to me" or "I have wrestled with my sister and prevailed" or "Now my husband will honor me." (Genesis 29:34; 30:8, 20)***

We see it in these mothers who shamelessly parade their preschoolers in beauty pageants. We point the accusatory finger at the hyper competitive little league dads who vainly try to groom their children for big time athletic scholarships in college.

But what about the rest of us? What is easy to see in everyone else is harder to see in self. We all struggle with the desire to see our children succeed in whatever they are doing (athletics, academics, music, Scouts, etc.) to make us look good. What is the solution for this?

* Understand they are not your children. They are given to us on loan from God. We are merely stewards of God's blessings. We encourage them to achieve and succeed to bring glory to Him, not ourselves. We want them to exercise their talents to be useful to accomplish His purposes, not our own.
* Glory in God, not your kids. We don't need our children to affirm our worth. We're valuable because God says we are. We have infinite worth because the blood of an infinitely worthy being was given for us. The fact that our child receives a full scholarship to an Ivy League school doesn't make us more special.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Nebuchadnezzar [Daniel 2:10]

2. Nahum [Nahum 3:4]

3. Ephesus [Acts 19:19]

4. Jezebel [2 Kings 9:22]

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