**SERVICE SCHEDULE for March 31, 2024**

**Announcements for the Week Cliff Davis**

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

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

**-- Comments** – Ben Wofford **Comments** – Ben Wofford

**-- Assisting** – Darryl Griffing **Communion** – Russ Sollars

**-- Assisting** – Cohen Esque

**-- Assisting** – Ron Bailey

**-- Assisting** – Roger German

**-- Scripture** – Micah Phillips **Scripture** – Ron Bailey --**Closing Prayer-** Brandon Esque **Closing Prayer -**- Buck Phillips

**Wednesday Night – April 3, 2024**

**First Prayer–** Brandon Esque

**Song Leader** – Brandon Anderson

**Invitation –** Russ Sollars

**Closing Prayer –** Jason LaChappelle

**Upcoming Assignments**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **March** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **31** | McIlvain | Please Be Considerate |
| **April 7** | Griffing | 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.**

**A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"**

**His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?**

**The son replied, "I do know!"**

**"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"**

**"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly," It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth..'**

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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**

***What Church?***

1. What church tolerated the heresy of the Nicolaitans?

2. What church had fallen prey to the legalistic Judaizers?

3. What is the most commended church in Revelation?

4. What church received an epistle that has never been found?

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***The Greatest Gift***

**By Ben Hall**

Jesus once said, ***“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).*** This seems like a strange statement especially when we consider the definition of the word “blessed” that Jesus used. This word is defined by Strong’s as “fortunate, well off*:* - blessed, happy.” In our world, we tend to believe the opposite of what Jesus said. .

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***The Greatest Gift***

**Continued**

If someone gives up the things that they have, then obviously he does not have what he gave up which would mean that he is less blessed, less fortunate, less happy. I suppose this comes from our conception of what it means to be “blessed.” We usually look at those who have many possessions as people who are blessed.

Jesus obviously disagrees. He looks at those who give up more as being the ones who truly have the greatest gifts of life. The conclusion we can draw is that happiness is more than having things. But how is there a gift to be found in giving?

Jesus says that real happiness comes through making sacrifices by giving to God and to others. So why do I not always feel more blessed when I give or my time, energy, or any of my other possessions?

The Macedonian Christians were a group of people who experienced the blessedness of giving and the core of their sacrificial joy is explained by our brother Paul in 2 Corinthians. He said that the Macedonian Christians first This verse outlines the process of finding the great blessing of giving.

First, give *yourself*. Without emptying yourself of yourself, you will never be able to find any sort of happiness in giving. We are to be living sacrifices. We do not merely give a sacrifice; we *are* the sacrifice that is given. Unfortunately, as living sacrifices we crawl off the altar as soon as we get the chance rather than truly giving ourselves away. If we would remain on the altar, we could find the blessing that we are searching for.

Second, give yourself *to the Lord*. We all give ourselves to something. People give themselves over to work, school, friends, family, politics, humanitarianism, among many other things. Yet anything you could give yourself over to will ultimately be dissatisfying.

This dissatisfaction with giving ourselves to different things can be for many different reasons but two of the most common are: 1) feeling unappreciated for all that we give up and 2) not believing that the cause we are giving to is really all that worthwhile.

Giving yourself to the Lord is superior in both of these regards. In giving ourselves to the Lord we have intimacy, unity and appreciation with Him which results in the sharing of mutual joy. Also, when we give ourselves to the Lord we can have the confidence that He is worth everything we give in our service to Him.

Finally, this passage teaches us that after giving ourselves to God then we should also *give ourselves to others*. The Macedonians first gave themselves to the Lord but that was followed up in their everyday lives by giving to Paul and other people around them who were in need.

This makes perfect sense considering it was the Lord whom they gave themselves to that once said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” In our daily walk we must never forget that part of giving to the Lord is also giving to the people we encounter in this world.

Do you want to find blessing from God? Give yourself in thanksgiving to the Lord who gave Himself to you and then share His grace by giving to the people around you. Only in this full self-sacrifice will you find the joy of the Spirit and be blessed by God.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. Pergamos [Revelation 2:12-17]

2. Galatia [Galatians 1:6-9]

3. Philadelphia [Revelation 3:7-13]

4. Laodicea [Colossians 4:16]

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