**SERVICE SCHEDULE for April 14, 2024**

**Announcements for the Week Buck Phillips**

**Morning Service Evening Service**

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

**Song Leader**- Josiah Phillips **Song Leader**- Bill McIlvain

**-- Comments** – Scott Fleming **Comments** – Cliff Davis

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

**-- Assisting** – Jared Davis

**-- Assisting** – Rn Bailey

**-- Assisting** – Cohen Esque

**-- Scripture** – Ernesto Almazan **Scripture** – Cohen Esque **Closing Prayer-** Eli Hickey **Closing Prayer**- Dan Woodward

**Wednesday Night – April 17, 2024**

**First Prayer–** Scott Swann

**Song Leader** – Ben Wofford

**Invitation –** Buck Phillips

**Closing Prayer –** Brandon Esque

**April 21 Evening Service –**Russ Sollars

**Upcoming Assignments**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **April** | **Communion** | **Cleaning** |
| **14** | Land | Please Be Considerate |
| **21** | Wofford | Clean the area around your seat |

**Memory Verse – Psalm 119:33**

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

**Good Thoughts:**

**We do not develop habits of genuine love automatically. We learn by watching effective role models – most specifically by observing how our parents express love for each other day in and day out.**

**Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children. ~ Charles (Chuck) Swindoll**

**A child who is allowed to be disrespectful to his parents will not have true respect for anyone.**

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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: Ron Bailey, Cliff Davis, Darryl Griffing, Buck Phillips, Ben Wofford**

**April 14, 2024**

***Miracles of Jesus***

1. Why did the people complain when Jesus healed a woman who had been stooped for eighteen years?

2. Where was Jesus when He miraculously escaped from a crowd that was going to push Jim off a cliff?

3. What was the other affliction of the deaf man Jesus healed in the Decapolis?

4. How man loaves of bread were used to feed the five thousand?

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***The Blame Game***

**By Al Diestelkamp**

Shifting blame has been around from the very beginning. When confronted for his sin in the garden, Adam tried to use this tactic by saying, ***“The woman you gave me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate” (Genesis 3:12).*** Then when Eve was questioned, she tried to pass the blame by saying, ***“the serpent deceived me, and I ate” (v.13).***

Ever since, people have been playing the blame game in efforts to “excuse” sins and failures. Another well-known biblical example of the blame game happened at Mt. Sinai when Aaron, after he had personally “fashioned it with an engraving tool” **(Exodus 32:4)**, tried to shift the blame on “the people” (v.22-23). 

***The Blame Game***

**Continued**

Of course, it was futile for Adam and Eve to try to fool God with this ploy, and Moses didn’t buy Aaron’s story, but these examples haven’t deterred the practice that thrives to this day.

In every area of human behavior we see people trying to justify their actions by diverting attention away from themselves to someone or something else. “It’s not my fault!” is the claim.

In our nation’s current economic crisis we hear blame-shifting every day. Politicians on both sides of the aisle have mastered this tactic. Republicans say the economy hasn’t improved because of the policies of President Biden, while Democrats lay the blame for almost everything on former President Donald Trump.

In the business world, union leaders and management accuse each other of greed, corruption and inflexibility. The problem is always the other’s fault. Unfortunately, the blame game often shows up in people’s personal lives. Sin is sometimes excused by placing the blame at the feet of circumstances.

With the drastic fluctuating housing market some homeowners who find themselves “upside down” think they are justified in reneging on their agreed upon mortgage contracts by accusing the banks of “predatory lending.”

Many who find themselves in unhappy marriages feel justified in breaking their vows if they can point the finger of blame at their spouse. Those involved in the various forms of sexual immorality will often try to lay blame at the feet of a spouse, or even resort to blaming God by saying, “He made me this way.”

The drunkard explains his “problem” as an illness, despite the fact that he “fashioned” himself with that disease by taking the first drink and ignoring the God-inspired warning that ***“Wine is a mocker, intoxicating drink arouses brawling, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).***

God, who always keeps His word, expects the same from His children **(Matthew 5:37).** He expects us to keep our promises, commitments and vows even when it would seem wise to “reconsider” them **(Psalm 37:21).** When a child of God sins, He accepts no excuses or shifting of blame, but saves those with a contrite spirit **(Psalm 34:18)**.

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***A Thought About Your Vacation Planning***

**By David Maxson**

***And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left..." [1 Kings 19:13-14]***

On our honeymoon, Adrienne and I worshiped with a very small group. They met in a modest sized building, so we expected a fair number to show up. Little did we know that our presence in the Bible class would nearly double the attendance!

There are probably thousands of similar situations around the world each Lord's day where just a few souls gather together to worship. They meet in huts, under trees, in store fronts, in houses, and, in some cases, in church buildings that years ago held many more members.

These groups, no matter how small, are precious to the Lord. He said ***"where two or three gather together in my name, there I am among them." (Matthew 18:20)***

When we go on vacation we should keep little groups like these in mind, and search them out to worship with them. It takes a little more work on our part, but what a great blessing we can give! We remind them that they are a part of a larger family; that they're not alone. They've made a conscious choice to stand for truth. Our presence tells them that they are not standing by themselves.

God, bless all of those who faithfully hold fast to God’s truth and refuse to sell out. May we have more opportunities to support them.

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**Answers from page 1**

1. He healed her on the Sabbath [Luke 13:11-13]

2. His hometown of Nazareth [Luke 4:29-30]

3. Almost mute [Mark 7:31-35]

4. Five [Matthew 14:15-21]

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