

Covington Family News

April 26, 2020



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

Live Now To Secure Forever

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow..." (Matthew 6:34).

A person's life can be divided up into four chunks of time: the past, the present, the future and eternity. The devil draws attention to the past and the future; God draws attention to the present and eternity. Therefore, the devil wants to take our focus off of the present and eternity while God wants us to avoid investing too heavily in the past and the future.

For example, when a person is thinking about becoming a Christian, the devil attacks that thinking in at least two places. First, the past: "I have done too many bad things that God could never forgive me of," and second, the future: "Even if He could forgive me, once I was baptized, I could never live up to the high standard of the Christian life."

God, on the other hand, reinforces truthful thinking in the above scenario by coaching a person to do NOW what will secure him or her for ETERNITY. In the process, of course, God does remedy the guilt of sin (PAST) and also gears the new convert up by prayer, worship, Scripture, fellowship, hope, etc. to be faithful in living out the Christian life (FUTURE).

The plea to live in the present saturates Scripture (see for example Mt. 6:34; 2 Co. 6:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:11-12).

That does not mean we have no business with the past. There may be a mess to clean up. And it does not mean we have no business with future, because we must plan (see Jas. 4:13-16).

It does mean that we should not waste life fantasizing, "I wish I could go back to yesterday," or "I am waiting for things to be different tomorrow."

Rather, live in the moment. Do what you are supposed to be doing today. Obey God now. Take responsibility for the present. That posture is "Christian" and can secure our eternity.

BulletinDigest.com

via Northridge church of Christ

Northridge, OH

SERVING THIS WEEK 4/26/20 AM Worship Service

Announcements: George Watkins
Song Leader: David Garner
Opening Prayer: Shawn Anderson
Closing Prayer: Wayne Dalrymple
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Benny Collins
 Clint Stacks, Brandon Stacks, Barney Locke, Michael Plemmons, Heath Billings, Chris Huggins, Chris Sanders, Rick Moore

April Food Committee Leader: Brenda Mason
Nursery Worker: Valerie Sampson

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: David Garner
Opening Prayer: David Keith
Closing Prayer: Nick Maness
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Mid-Week Bible Study April 29

Song Leader: Isaac Stewart
Opening Prayer: Jimmy McMahan
Closing Prayer: Zach Kidd
Speaker: Mike Rogers

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes
Worship AM
PM
Wednesday Bible Study

SHEPHERDS

Wayne Dalrymple 901- 573-3908
 Jerry Gatlin 901- 296-5166
 Bill Murray 901- 476-8587
 Andy Whaley 901- 626-2911

DEACONS

Shawn Anderson
 Ken Bringle Jr.
 J.J. Brown
 Rusty Cartwright
 Benny Collins
 John Combs
 Grant Edmonds
 David Keith
 Brandon Matlock
 Jimmy McMahan
 Alan Otts
 Craig Robinson
 Clint Smith
 David Stewart
 Robert Trimm
 Terry Wall

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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM
 Worship, 10:00AM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Mike's Message

Come to Me"
Matt. 11:28-30

We are living in a most discouraging time. The social distancing and quarantine rules have most of us on edge. We need and want to work, but these rules make it difficult, if not impossible for some. We are concerned for our own health and for the health of others. Yet, we need to be around other people for our own sanity. This is a most stressful time.

Our text is one of the most appropriate texts for such a time as this. Jesus looks out over His crowd of listeners and sees people as poor, exhausted workers laboring under the yoke of Jewish law and Roman jurisdiction. He recognizes the burden is too heavy for them to bear alone. So, He utters the most compassionate words ever spoken, "Come to Me."

This invitation is from Christ, the Son of God, the Messiah, the savior of the world, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, the Shepherd and bishop of our souls, the builder, the head, and the chief corner stone of the church. Had these words come from the Jewish court, or a Roman official they would have been repulsive and intolerant. People would have cringed from their arrogance. Yet no one has ever been disgusted, or repulsed by the invitation offered by Jesus the Christ. All the love and compassion of a humble shepherd are engulfed in this invitation.

[The invitation is to "all who are weary and heavy-laden" (v. 28b). Jesus is inviting all who have problems that seem too heavy to bear, the sick, the hungry, the lame, the blind, the recovering addicts, the lonely, the discouraged, et al. He is especially inviting those who are struggling under the guilt of sin.

Jesus promises rest to all who come to Him. This rest is an inner peace, joy, and comfort that can only come through Jesus (cf. Phil. 4:7, John 10:10). In Verse 29, the "rest" is eternal salvation. The same word is used in Revelation 14:13: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

He invites us, "Take My yoke upon you." (v. 29). We may not be able to bear our burdens alone, but yoked up with Jesus, no burden is too great. He declares, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

He invites us, "Learn from Me." Jesus has suffered in every way we can, but "without sin" (see Heb. 4:15). From Him, we can learn to bear our burdens in meekness and humility. Come to Jesus today! Only the gentle Lamb of God can ease our pain of stress and guilt and provide us rest.

In your stress, remember Jesus' invitation, "Come to Me!"
--Mike Rogers

Family News



Shirley Laxton
Betty Blevins—Broken foot
Joey Plemmons—Recovering from surgery
Paul Sampson
Andy Whaley
Craig Robinson
Miriam Stafford—Mother-in-law of Genie Renfore, surgery, April 23
Ann Brown—Aunt of Debbie Otts
Beverly Russell
JoAnn Jenkins
Nell Huffman—Sister of Kay Gatlin
Connor Peebles—Great nephew of Sherri Kidd

Coronavirus pandemic, Tornado Victims. Also remember Pat Armstrong, Reba Arwood, Sonny Arwood, LaVerne Baxter, Linda Beard, Rodger Beasley, Don Blackwell, Barry Bolding, Albert Boling, Gary Bowie, Cleo Burch, Stephen Carlton, Al Chaney, Cindy Clark, Kenneth Coulston, Buddy Coats, Bobbie Deen, Shelley Dickey, Jane Dowell, Vince Ellard, Joan Erwin, Melvin Escue, Robert Evans, Wesley Fowler, Jason Elliott, Jackie Gatlin, Bonnie Glass, Houston Hall, Liz Huffman, Jackson Hughey, Dara Keeton, Darryl Kidd, Nellene Kidd, Maggie Koury, Shelley Krieger, Lucy Krull, Vicky Mayfield, Sammy McDivitt, Paula McLean, Freddie Posey, Patty Prince, Mike Reynolds, Keith Ryder, Brandon Scott, Sherry Scott, Albert Scrip, Alfred Shankle, Delores Smith, Tonya Stanley, Julia Strange, Drew Tankersley, Maddie Taylor, Brad Warmath, Paige Warmath, Larry Whaley I, Larry WhaleyII, Otis White, Carla Whitis, Cynthia Wilson, Nedra Young

NURSING HOME

Covington Care: Otis Poole

MILITARY

Logan Bridgeman, Bradley Evins, Major Creel, Steven Creel, Alex Fendley, Nic Hunter, Dayana Leon, Tanner Mason, Scott E. Moore, Will Morris, Chris Nowak, Michael J. Pena, Thomas Posey, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Tessa Stacks, Jessica Whaley

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Teresa Stacks & family in the death of her aunt, *Janis Dyson*.



"The Lord is my light and my salvation . . . the Lord is the strength of my life."
Psalm 27:1

Calendar of Events

Tentative Schedule

*Evangelism Seminar, June 12-13

BIRTHDAYS APRIL26-MAY 2



26—Randi Carter
29—Judy McCool, Isaac Stewart
1—Erin Evins
2—Kay Gatlin

Today is a gift from God.

That's why it's called

"The Present."

via Bulletin Digest

OUR GREAT GOD!

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
Psalms 46:1

1. GOD IS OUR SHELTER
2. GOD IS OUR STRENGTH
3. GOD IS OUR SUPPORT

via Bulletin Digest

NEW ARRIVAL



Congratulations to Tony & Donna Sonwineski. on the birth of a grandson, *Aleks Tyler Davis* born to Ryan & Ashley Davis. *Aleks* was born, Thursday, April 16, weighing 11lbs. 2ozs.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE APRIL 26-MAY 2



26—Lk. 18:1-17	1 Sam. 10-12
27—Lk. 18:18-43	1 Sam. 13-14
28—Lk. 19:1-27	1 Sam. 15-16
29—Lk.19: 28-48	1 Sam. 17
30—Lk.20: 1-26	1 Sam. 18-19
1— Lk. 20:27-47	1 Sam. 20-22
2— Lk. 21:1-2	1 Sam. 23-24

The Carpenter's Apprentice

Like buzzards soaring and sniffing out the smell of death, the SARS-CoV-2 circles high above, unseen, yet waiting to swoop down and infect groups of 11, those who fail to maintain a safe 6-foot distance and the mask-less insubordinate who wander carelessly among us! It's not that I don't believe there is a novel strain of the corona virus being transmitted or that there are those who have died from it. It's not that I don't believe those deaths are sad and the new world order that prevents the comforting of loved ones during this time of loss is even sadder. Death is almost always sad and a difficult time for those who know and love the deceased. There is a virus being transmitted around the globe and it is, while not living up to its billing, taking lives. Particularly hard hit are the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions. Over the past month I have heard some heart wrenching stories.

Still, there is something disturbing about the world's response to the virus. What disturbs me most are the inconsistencies and ignorance. I see them everywhere from the recommendations on how to stop the spread to how people wear their masks and gloves. We allow big box stores to funnel us in and out (a measure to protect themselves, not us). We hoard supplies because others hoard supplies. We wear masks and gloves, touch everything everywhere and then adjust our mask with the gloved hands we just touched everything with! None the less, we are comfortable and feel safer because we wait in line to spend our money, wear masks and gloves and have plenty of toilet paper but true protection requires a change of personal habits. When you really think about it, there are many similarities between protecting ourselves from a virus and preparing ourselves for eternal life. When it comes to religion, there are many inconsistencies and much ignorance too. There is no excuse for ignorance – we have the Bible, "a lamp for our feet and a light for our path" (Psalm 119:105). When we live lives inconsistent with the truth of God's Word, it is confusing, frustrating and possibly damning for those new to the Word of God and those whose knowledge of the Word is based on the words of those who "teach as doctrine the commandments of men" (Matthew 15:9), never actually looking to scripture for truth. You have surely heard it said, "You could be the only Bible another person ever reads." How sad is that if we are simply mindless spiritual automatons simply doing what we are told and never asking why or searching the scriptures to "work out our own salvation" (Philippians 2:12). We are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Let us resolve to shine and live consistent with the Word and bring glory to our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16) so we may hear one day, "Well done, good and faithful servant . . . enter into the joy of your master" (Matthew 25:21).

-jeff