

Covington Family News

August 16, 2020



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

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Let Go Of The Past

The passenger tapped the cab driver on the shoulder to ask him something. The driver screamed, lost control of the car, nearly hit a bus, went up on the sidewalk, and stopped inches from a department store window. For a second everything went quiet in the cab, then the driver said, "Look mister, don't ever do that again. You scared me half to death!" The passenger apologized and said he didn't realize that a little tap could scare him so much. The driver replied, "You're right. I'm sorry. Really, it's not your fault. Today is my first day as a cab driver. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years." The cabbie allowed his past experiences to cause him to take his eye off of the road and his goal of getting his passenger to his destination. Sometimes we allow our past to affect our present and future goals and destinations also. The apostle Paul told the Philippian brethren: "Not that have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:12-14). When we find our past affecting our lives in a negative way, we need to learn how to forget those things. We especially need to forget those things which keep us from focusing on our goal of heaven. When we have people in our lives who are causing us to take our eyes off of our goal of heaven, we need to forget them. When our guilt from former sins, which have been forgiven, causes us to take our eyes off of our goal of heaven, we need to forget them. When temptations to sin lead us astray from our goal of heaven, we need to forget them. We need not to allow anything in our past to take our focus off of heaven. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4).

Larry Pasley
Alexandria, LA

BulletinDigest.com

SERVING THIS WEEK 8/16/20 AM Worship Service

Announcements: George Watkins
Song Leader: John Combs
Opening Prayer: Andy Whaley
Closing Prayer: Alan Otts
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: Benny Collins
August Food Committee Leader: Denise Cartwright
Nursery Worker: Teri Robinson

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: John Combs
Opening Prayer: Beau Phillips
Closing Prayer: Isaac Stewart
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Mid-Week Bible Study August 19

Song Leader: Jedidiah Phillips
Opening Prayer: John Combs
Closing Prayer: Jackson Robinson
Speaker: Jeff Phillips

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	138
Worship AM	172
PM	102
Wednesday Bible Study	171

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Piper Davis	Germantown, TN
Kensleigh Stevens	

Covington Church of Christ
1690 Highway 51 South – PO Box 9
Covington, TN 38019

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

Bible Classes 9:00AM
Worship 10:00AM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Mike's Message

Joy in Times of Trouble

While Paul was a prisoner in Rome, Epaphroditus, a member of the church in Philippi, was sent to Rome to bring a special gift to Paul that would help him in his time of trouble (Phil. 2:25-30; 4:10-20). The letter to the Philippians is a thank-you letter, but more than that, Paul shares the secret of Christian joy and contentment. At least 19 times in these four chapters, Paul mentions joy, rejoicing, or gladness.

Paul is a Roman prisoner possibly facing the death penalty, yet his message is laced with joy and contentment.

Acts 28:30-31 indicates that he was a prisoner in his own hired house, but he was chained to a Roman soldier and not permitted to preach in public. Paul had wanted to go to Rome as a preacher (Rom. 1:13-16); instead, he had come as a prisoner. And, unfortunately, the believers at Rome were divided. Some were for Paul and some were against him (Phil. 1:15-17).

Paul instructs his readers to focus on their relationship with Christ (Phil. 2:1-2). Jesus Christ was "a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3). Yet He possessed a deep joy that was beyond human imagination. As He faced the cruel death of crucifixion, he said to His followers, "These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full" (John 15:11).

Those who have Christ as Lord have the privilege of knowing true joy. The Psalmist writes, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Ps. 16:11). Paul presents it as, "the peace of God that surpasses all comprehension" (Phil. 4:7). Yet, most of us live under a cloud of desperation, sadness, and conflict when we could be walking in the sunshine of joy.

The book of Philippians presents four ways that Christians are robbed of this joy. Circumstances often rob us of our joy (cf. 1:12-14; 4:11-13). People often rob us of our joy (cf. 1:15-18; 2:25-30). Things often rob us of our joy (cf. 3:7-14; 4:10-11; Luke 12:15). Worry often robs us of our joy (cf. 4:4-7; Matt. 6:25-27). Join us Sunday morning as we look at the ways we are robbed of our joy.

Join us for our PM lesson as we learn to cultivate the mind to keep these thieves from stealing the joy that is rightfully ours in Christ. Paul uses "mind" 10 times, "think" 5 times, and "remember" once. In other words, the secret of Christian joy is found in the way one thinks—his attitude. "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7).

Join us as we study from Philippians. —Mike Rogers

Prayer List



- Jerry Melton—Home
- Elaine Watkins—Recovering from surgery
- LaVerne Baxter—Recovering from surgery
- Amy Garner—Recovering from surgery
- Vicky Mayfield—Recovering from surgery
- Shirley Weir
- Betty Blevins—Recovering from surgery
- Ruby Hopper—Recovering from surgery
- Christine Otts—Mother of Alan Otts
- Eddie Dickey family
- Tyler Middleton—Recovering from a fall
- Sue Bryant—Recovering from a car accident
- Delores Smith—Mother of Vicky Mayfield

Coronavirus pandemic, our country, South family in the loss of their loved one, *Charles South*. Also remember Pat Armstrong, Reba Arwood, Sonny Arwood, Linda Beard, Sharon Beaird, Barry Bolding, Albert Boling, Gary Bowie, Carrie Bridges, T. J. Brown, Cleo Burch, Connie Burch, Jack Burris, Al Chaney, Cindy Clark, Kenneth Coulston, Bobbie Deen, Shelley Dickey, Jane Dowell, Chrishya Draine, Jason Elliott, Joan Erwin, Melvin Escue, Cammy Evans, Robert Evans, Wesley Fowler, Houston Hall, Jackson Hughey, Nellene Kidd, Lucy Krull, Shirley Laxton, Thomas Pittman, Beverly Russell, Brandon Scott, Sherry Scott, Alfred Shankle, Tonya Stanley, Julia Strange, Betty Ware, Brad and Paige Warmath, Larry Whaley I, Carla Whitis, Carolyn Wood, 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

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

Calendar of Events

AUGUST EVENTS

Ladies Bible Class Tuesday mornings at 10:00
Men's Prayer Breakfast Wednesday mornings at 6:00

19—Singing Night

26—Summer Series; Speaker: Mike Hixson

Sunday Servants will meet Sunday nights in the Fellowship Room following the Worship Service.

BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 16-22



16—Chesley Hoffman

17—Donnie Benjamin

19—David Nance, Austin Phillips, Marley Maness

ANNIVERSARIES

22—Tracy & Tricia Speight

Did You Know?

Every verse in the

New Testament in which baptism and

salvation appear together

lists baptism prior to salvation?

via Bulletin Digest

BIBLE READNG SCHEDULE AUGUST 16-22



16 – Romans 9	Ps. 39-43
17 – Romans 10	Ps. 44-47
18 – Romans 11: 1-21	Ps. 48-51
19 – Romans 11: 22-36	Ps. 52-56
20 – Romans 12	Ps. 57-61
21 – Romans 13	Ps. 62-66
22 – Romans 14	Ps. 67-69

The Carpenter's Apprentice

A reinforcement schedule is a rule in basic psychology stating when certain behaviors are to be reinforced. Reinforcement schedules can then be broken into two categories, continuous or partial. Operant conditioning can be further broken down within each category to train or encourage behavior. Extinction is the term applied to conditioning when the desired behavior is no longer happening. In other words, if the reward for a certain behavior takes too long, then the behavior will cease. The highest level of conditioning comes with variable ratio schedule because the reward could come at any time. In fact, the next action might result in the reward. This is the conditioning used with slot machines and the lottery and what makes people keep playing; the hope that the next scratch will be the big one. It's also why I keep looking at Facebook. Every once in a while, the whole truth is presented in such a way as to really put things in perspective. I do not know who to give credit to for this but it is not mine and I am paraphrasing.

A woman went to the preacher and said, "Preacher, I quit! I am never coming back. When I get here folks are not listening, they are on their phones, gossiping - most of them ain't even living right! I don't want to be around those hypocrites anymore." The preacher thought for a minute and said, "Before you make your final decision to leave, will you do me one favor? Will you fill a glass with water all the way to the top and walk around the church building two times?" She said, "Sure preacher, I can do that," and she did. When she came back to the preacher, he asked, "While you were walking, did you see anyone on their cell phone? Did you hear anyone gossiping or notice anyone not living right?" She said, "Preacher, I was so focused on not spilling any of that water, I didn't see anything but that glass and the water in it. I didn't spill a drop, none of it fell out!" she finished proudly. He then said, "That is the kind of focus you need to come to worship with. You need to come so focused on God you don't see anything else and fall out. That is why Jesus said 'Follow me' and not 'Follow Christians'. Do not define your relationship with God by the way others relate to him."

Facebook provided this little nugget of golden perspective on worship and my relationship with God. No doubt I will keep looking at ignorant posts, hoping to find a great one – but not while I am in worship!

I hope to see you all soon.

-jeff