

Covington Family News

August 25, 2024

Absence And Alarm!

There is a correlation, you know. When a Christian is absent from the worshiping assembly, there is cause for alarm. “Why? Whose business is it?” says the absentee, “If I want to miss, let me be — what does it hurt anyway?” Glad you asked the question. It hurts a lot! It hurts you, first. Fellowship of the saints in the presence of Christ is a stirring experience. Sharing exhilarating emotions with those who love the Lord as together you sing, pray, teach, commune and give is an uplifting exercise. What better could you do? The Bible states to absent yourself only if there is a matter to be straightened out with you and your brother, doesn’t it? The assembly certainly takes priority over the ordinary life. Secondly, you hurt those closest to you. Helpmate or children quit because you do. Your lack of zeal and interest telegraphs to them, “CHURCH IS NOT IMPORTANT,” They love you – you are the big one in their life. You thus take from the Lord instead of to Him, those you love most. Thirdly, the relationship between absence and alarm is further heightened by the fact that the surest path to backsliding is absenteeism. There is more to being a Christian than attending services, but the attendance can never be minimized. It is a vital part of our duty. Nothing is equal to the church of the Lord. To leave is to go downhill. Nothing is dearer than the duty to REMEMBER ME, Jesus demands it. Absence lets you remember self. Why would no one be alarmed when even one member is absent? He is selling short his opportunity—he’s disobeying his Lord. Be certain about your attendance. When one is absent willfully, he is going the wrong way! Turn around, brother, come home.



*Serving Our Community
for the Glory of God*

SHEPHERDS

Wayne Dalrymple 901- 573-3908
David Keith 901- 430-3940
Andy Whaley 901- 626-2911

DEACONS

Ken Bringle Jr.
Neil Bringle
J.J. Brown
Benny Collins
Brad Evins
Brandon Matlock
Alan Otts
Craig Robinson
David Stewart
Robert Trimm
Terry Wall

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SERVING THIS WEEK 8/25/24 AM Worship Service

Announcements Jeff Phillips
Song Leader: Jimmy McMahan
Sermon Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: LeRoy Finto
Paul Smith, Jeff Hanks, Brad Evins, Nick Maness,
Wesley Fowler, Eason Robinson, Gordon Cartwright,
Alan Otts

Opening Prayer: Michael Wyatt
Closing Prayer: Jon McCain

Nursery Worker: Rachel Maness

August Bus Driver: Ken Bringle Jr.

Attendance Card Collectors: (8/25, 8/28)

Eli Charnock, Noah Charnock, August Charnock

August Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Richard & Elaine Shankle
Auditorium Entrance: Brad & Becky Evins

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Jimmy McMahan
Opening Prayer: John Evans
Closing Prayer: Reid McMahan
Sermon Mike Rogers

Midweek Bible Study August 28

Song Leader:
Opening Prayer: David Keith
Closing Prayer: Hadley Mason
Speaker: Mitchell Rogers

PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Sunday Bible Classes	N/A
Worship AM	N/A
PM	N/A
Wednesday Bible Study	147

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 & 5:30PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mike’s Message

Love, The Hardest Commandment

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:30-31). A commandment is a word reflecting absolute authority. There is no greater authority than God. God is Omniscient and has revealed His commandments to all men for all generations through His word, the Bible. Therefore, any commandment we read in the Bible is absolute and cannot be negotiated. But Love is not simply something we do. It is a feeling of intense affection. It should be the motivation for everything we do. But, how is it possible to obey a command to feel a certain way? There can be no doubt this is the hardest commandment we will ever be asked to obey. But when we get this one down, all other commandments will inevitably be observed. While I cannot tell us how to feel love in every situation, I want to remind us of four areas in which we are commanded to love and hopefully within these four areas we can find the motivation to strive for the love God desires from us.

First, we are commanded to love God (Mark 12:30). To Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind means that we are to love God sincerely, emotionally, vigorously, and intellectually. We are to use all of our physical and mental faculties in loving God. Knowing He is about to face crucifixion Jesus declares, “so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me” (John 14:31). Loving God means doing His will even when it is hard, or we had rather do something else. Second, we are commanded to love one another (see John 13:34-35). “This is the commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us” (1 John 3:23). We are commanded to love our enemies (Matt. 5:43-44). An enemy may be someone who wants to do us harm. Jesus says to love them. There are different measures of love but love still requires us to do good toward others, even our enemies (Rom. 12:14-21). We are commanded to love our neighbor (Luke 10:25-29). This parable informs us that a neighbor is anyone in need. “. . . he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. . . . if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law” (Rom. 13:8-10). When we learn to love, every other commandment will be observed (cf. John 14:15).

—Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Kathy McMahan—Health problems
Judy Burrow—Recovering from surgery
Heath Billings
Vicki Mayfield
Lawrence Coulston—Dad of LaDonna Nance
Jimmy Gurley—Dad of Courtney Watkins
Anthony Stacks—Uncle of Clint Stacks
Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Frank Brown, Lynn Butler, Andre`Cannon, Gwen Coffee, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Jason Elliott, Jackie Floyd, David Fuls, Malissa Garner, Jackie Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Mayson Hall, Kyle Hanks, Charles Hays, K.C. Haynes, Ruth Heath, Richard Langston, Liz Mason, Charlotte McCalister, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Katie Merritt, Gigi Miller, Robin Montgomery, Dorothy Morris, Zachary Nance, Jacob Navarro, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Michelle Nowak, Barbara Pool, Jeremy Reynolds, Bonita Rogers, David South, Pat Stephenson, Sue Stidham, Patti Taylor, Melvin Wall, Ashley Whaley, Delores Whaley, Larry Whaley II, Tina Williams, Jeff Wood

NURSING HOME:
Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson
MILITARY:
Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Bradley Evins, Dayana Fendley, Danny Fields, Tanner Mason, Richie Newbill, Chris Nowak, Jedidiah Phillips, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

RESPONSE
Kenzie Hobbs responded Wednesday night repenting of sin. Please remember her.

Celebrating

50
YEARS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN
ANNIVERSARY PARTY HONORING
Alan & Debbie
Otts

22

August 24th 2024, 12:00 PM at
Garland Community Center
1598 Garland Dr., Covington, Tennessee

No gifts please
RSVP to The Steele’s @ 901. 484-2989
or The Billings @ 901.483.9825


Calendar of Events

AUGUST EVENTS

25—Compassion Group 4, 4:30PM
26—Monday Night for the Master, Group 4
27—Ladies Bible Class, 10AM

There are new members-family pages for the Directory available on the table in the foyer. We are updating the Directory on our webpage, if you have any changes to your page, (new address, phone number, e-mail address), please add it to your attendance card.

We also have pages to add to your History Books on the table in the foyer.



There will be an Ice Cream/Dessert party, Sunday, August 25th after the PM Worship Service. Bring your favorite homemade ice cream and/or dessert.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUMMER SERIES, AUGUST 28

“ My Favorite Sermon”


5 Reasons to Abide in Jesus” (John 15:4-11)

Speaker: Mitchell Rogers

AREA EVENTS

29—Apologetics Press Benefit and Informational Dinner at Henderson church of Christ; 6:00PM
31—Men’s *Men On A Mission* Day at Quince Church of Christ, Memphis, TN; 8:00AM-1:00PM

BIRTHDAYS AUGUST 25-31



27—Pat Gatlin, Fay Hazlerig, Brad Evins, Kip Hoffman,
28—Pat Stephenson
31—Aniston Bringle, McKinley Bringle

ANNIVERSARIES
31—Wayne & Charlene Dalrymple

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE AUGUST 25-31

August 25—Jeremiah 1-3
August 26—Jer. 4-6
August 27—Jer. 7-9
August 28—Jer. 10-12
August 29—Jer. 13-15
August 30—Jer. 16-18
August 31—Jer. 19-21

The Carpenter’s Apprentice

Romans 12:1-2 is a familiar verse to most, “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” In this verse Paul talks about change. The very nature of conversion is change and 1 Corinthians 6:11 demonstrates this as Paul writes to the church at Corinth telling them in verses nine and ten who won’t inherit the Kingdom of God, saying, “Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” Ultimately, he says, “You were changed!” But change doesn’t come easy and it is often not because we don’t want to or need to; it just takes more effort to change, than it does to stay the same. Many times, our resistance or inability to change is not even a conscious choice, our brains are simply on autopilot. For instance, the other day I had loaded the truck for a trip to the dump and asked Jennifer if she would like to join me for the ride down. Arriving at the intersection where church is to the left and the dump is straight, I began to make a left. Jennifer said, “I thought we were going to the dump.” We were, but 99 times out of a hundred, when I get to that intersection and my wife is in the truck, we are on the way to church. My brain saved a lot of time and effort by simply executing the turn without my conscious approval or objection. To make the assumption change is as easy as speaking it and won’t be challenged is short sighted to say the least.

In his book Atomic Habits, James Clear outlines how to “change your habits and get 1% better every day.” He teaches readers how to build a habit in four steps. Let’s be honest, building habits is the essence of change. First, make the change obvious, then, make it attractive, make it easy and make it satisfying. The thing is, we cannot force change on anyone. In fact, when we attempt to force change, the result is always damaged relationships and then change/conversion becomes impossible. Conversion has to be self-motivated and desired. When we are attempting to lead others to Christ, or maybe just to more righteous living, understanding change is crucial. Furthermore, what could make the change more obvious than demonstrating the need for Christ in their lives by modeling His presence in ours? This is similar to the old farmer’s saying, “You can lead a horse to water but you can’t make him drink!” Except in truth, how we lead may influence whether or not they drink.

-Jeff