

# Covington Family News

## April 13, 2025

### How Can We Make Our Relationships Better?

There is something that makes all relationships better. There is one special ingredient—one golden thread that binds every person within that relationship. It is this: to put away all selfishness. This is not a new concept in marriages. In the book, “What Every Family Needs” by Carl Brecheen and Paul Faulkner, we find this statement: “Selfishness is the greatest single enemy of a happy marriage . . . (and) is the root of all other sins”) (page 5). This applies to all relationships: husband-wife, parent-child, employer-employee, neighbor to neighbor, etc. The Bible says: “Do nothing from selfishness or conceit . . .” (Phil. 2:3). If I read that right, then the Bible is telling us that there is nothing good that can be done when it is done out of selfishness. The opposite of selfishness is: generosity, benevolence, selflessness. When I have my way all the time . . . then I’m being selfish. When I put what I want or I put what I have a right to above the wishes and desire of my spouse, friends, family, neighbors—then I’m being selfish. Selflessness says: “Others come first.” How can we overcome selfishness in our lives? God’s answer to overcoming selfishness is for us to understand what conversion to Christianity is all about. You see, conversion means to voluntarily give up our rights and our freedoms and even give up the throne within our minds—to Christ. I die to self (Romans 6). That means I die to selfishness. It means I put all others first. Actually, this is the heart of the golden rule given to us by Jesus, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Matt. 7:12). God’s answer to selfishness is to put others first.

Larry Fitzgerald

via Bulletin Digest



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#### SERVING THIS WEEK 4/13/25 AM Worship Service

**Announcements** Ken Bringle Jr.  
**Song Leader:** Jeff Phillips  
**Sermon** Mike Rogers

#### Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: LeRoy Finto  
Donnie Benjamin, Zach Higgins, Ken Mason, Landon Bringle, Craig Robinson, Myles Benjamin, Brad Evins, Gordon Cartwright

**Opening Prayer:** Robert Charnock  
**Closing Prayer:** Alan Otts

**Nursery Worker:** Leslie Howard

**Attendance Card Collectors:** 4/13)

Levi Teems, Houston Davis, Kyle McCain

#### April Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Alan & Debbie Otts  
Auditorium Entrance: Michael & Susie Wyatt

#### PM Worship Service

**Song Leader:** Jeff Phillips  
**Opening Prayer:** John Evans  
**Closing Prayer:** Landon Bringle  
**Lads to Leaders Dress Rehearsal**

<b>Sunday Bible Classes</b>	122
<b>Worship AM</b>	205
<b>PM</b>	154
<b>Wednesday Bible Study</b>	100

#### VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Dalton family Burlison, TN  
Joseph & Katie Gaines  
Cyril & Jamie Roethlisberg  
Colby Turner

### 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

### Mike’s Message

#### God’s Promises

[I changed my sermon for last Sunday because of the amount of rain that had fallen in four days. This article reflects that sermon. You can read last week’s bulletin article to prepare for the sermon on Sunday April 13]. Tipton county experienced more flooding in four days than I have ever seen. I was told someone measured 22 inches of water in their rain gage. This was devastating and almost shut down the entire midsouth. This flooding was made worse by the number of tornadoes that touched down and the destruction and loss of property and lives they caused. As bad as this was, it was nothing compared to what Noah and his family experienced (Genesis 7:4-12). The “fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates from the sky were opened. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights” (Gen. 7:11-12). It rained on us for four days, and that not continually, and it has pretty much shut down everything. In this lesson I want to review three promises God has made. I do not mean to minimize the devastation and hurt that came from the tornadoes and flooding, but the first promise I want to notice is the promise God gave Noah and his sons. He promised that the earth will never again be destroyed by water (Gen. 9:8-17). God made this promise to Noah and every living creature. He even extended this promise to the earth (Gen. 9:11-13). God even put a rainbow in the clouds as a sign of remembrance of this covenant (9:12-17). But why did God flood the world? It was because “the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and every intent and the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5-7). How does the world compare today? Are we as wicked as those people were? God was sorry that He had made man and vowed to destroy all He had created, “but Noah found favor in the eyes of God” (Gen. 6:8) because he was “a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God” (Gen. 6:9). Noah made the earth worth saving. We are like Noah. Jesus said to His disciples, “You are the salt of the earth” (Matt. 6:13). Salt was used for flavoring, salaries, and preservatives. Comparing His disciples to salt, Jesus was saying, you make the earth worth saving. But God made another promise. He promised to destroy the earth with fire because of the wickedness of man (2 Peter 3:10-12). God is patient with this promise because of the righteousness of a few. But, make no mistake, He will keep His promise (2 Peter 3:3-9). The third promise is that God will create a new heavens and earth for all who remain righteous (2 Peter 3:13-18). Will you live, or be destroyed?

--Mike Rogers

### Prayer List


Addie Rimmer—Recovering from surgery  
Libby Click  
Helen Kennedy  
Steve Cook  
Storm victims, earthquake victims, Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, LaVerne Baxter, Heath Billings, Neil Bringle, Captain Mike Shipley, Georgia Cook, Jeff Cooper, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Laura Craft, Jason Elliott, Hattie Fields, Malissa Garner, Jackie Gatlin, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kyle Hanks, K.C. Haynes, Stan McDevitt, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Kathy McMahan, Gigi Miller, Robin Montgomery, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Phillip Scrip, Donna Sonwineski, Anthony Stacks, David South, Melvin Wall, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II, Oscar Williams

**NURSING HOME:** Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson

**Ripley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center:** Vicki Mayfield


**MILITARY:** Killian Bridgeman, Logan Bridgeman, Major Creel, Bradley Evins, Dayana Fendley, Tanner Mason, Richie Newbill, Chris Nowak, Michael J. Pena, Jedidiah Phillips, Jacob Sampson, Parker Speight, Isaac Stewart

**WEDDING SHOWER**



All ladies are invited to a wedding shower honoring *Kiana Mitchell & Daniel Trimm*, Sunday, April 13, 2PM in the foyer. The couple is registered at Amazon, Target, & Something Special.

**BIRTHDAYS APRIL 13-19**



16—Myles Benjamin, Noah Charnock  
17—George Watkins  
19—Ashley Whaley, Myung Carroll, Laken Liles

**ANNIVERSARIES**  
19—Benny & Hope Collins

**SYMPATHY** We extend our deepest sympathy to Cloma Fowler & family in the death of her mother, *Peggy Conley*; to Nedra Young in the death of her husband, *Bob Young*; and to Judy Dunaway & family in the death of their loved one, *Jonathan Graham*.

**BIBLE READING SCHEDULE APRIL 13-19**  
April 13—I Kin. 20-22  
April 14—11Kin. 1-3  
April 15—11 Kin. 4-6  
April 16—11 Kin. 7-9  
April 17—11 Kin. 10-12  
April 18—11 Kin. 13-15  
April 19—11 Kin. 16-18

### Calendar of Events

**APRIL EVENTS**  
**13—Lads to Leaders Dress Rehearsal**  
14—Monday Night for the Master, group 2  
15, 22, 29—Ladies Bible Class, 10AM

**Saturday, April 12 we will have a workday here at the building, 8:00-5:00. Breakfast will be served at 7:00.**  
***Lads to Leaders is just around the corner. How can you be involved? By baking your best cookies, brownies, and treats! Not a baker? No problem! We also need chips, Debbie cakes, bottled water, and capri sun drinks! Not time to go to the store? We can do it for you! Please give any donations to Brad or Becky Evins. All contributions need to be at the building by Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>.***  
**May 2—Graduation Banquet**  
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There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for Birth-6<sup>th</sup> grade, Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> immediately following the morning service. We will meet at Cobb Parr Park where the kids can play and hunt eggs. Please bring a sack lunch and a dozen pre-filled eggs.  
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**Covington Church of Christ**  
**Mental Health**  
**Weekend Seminar**  
**Biblical & Practical**  
**Help for Those Who Hurt**  
**May 3-4**  
**With**  
**Neil Richey, PhD. LPC**

**Saturday**  
6:00PM Embracing Calm: Coping with Stress & Anxiety  
7:00PM Being There: Supporting Loved Ones in Times of Crisis  
8:00PM Finding the Light: A Journey Through Depression

**Sunday**  
9:00AM Mind Over Matter: Strategies for Rewiring an Anxious Mind  
10:00AM Releasing the Weight: Navigating Guilt in Mental Health  
12:30PM Together We Thrive: Building a Supportive Community Luncheon on Sunday (Potluck)

Everyone is invited!  
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**AREA EVENT** April 13-15—Congregational Evangelism Training Seminar at Collierville church of Christ; Speakers: Rob Whitacre & Nicole Whitacre  
***Ben Evans is collecting bottled, water, snacks, paper towels, etc. for the tornado relief in Selmer, TN. Please have these items at the building by Sunday, April 13.***

### Carpenter’s Apprentice

With “tax season” almost over, paying taxes or getting a refund is on the minds of many. While paying taxes is a sign you are making money, there are not many who actually enjoy giving a substantial chunk of their income to the government. The dislike for tax collectors has been around since the first taxes were introduced! In the first century, tax collectors often found themselves included whenever sinners were talked about and often seemed to be in a class by themselves as even Jesus acknowledged their loathsomeness using the phrase, “tax collectors and sinners” (Luke 7:34). Given the generally negative sentiment towards taxes, it is really not a surprise to find out the Pharisees chose taxation as one of the topics in which to try and trip Jesus up. In Matthew 22:15-21, the writer describes the scene when trying to entrap Jesus, the Pharisees asked him if it were lawful, or permissible, to pay tax to Caesar. Jesus’ response clearly demonstrated the depth of His wisdom, and knowledge. He asked to see the money and queried his aggravators, “Whose picture is on the coin?” When they said Caesars, Jesus responded matter of factly, well then “give unto Caesar what is Caesar’s.” His statement left his detractors amazed at his response for they still had nothing to accuse him with. But that is not all he said. Jesus followed, “give unto Caesar what is Caesar’s” with, “and give unto God what is God’s.” In the very same sentence, He answered their question; he gave them a huge directive making their question look petty and dumb. After all, what is God’s if it is not everything?” This begs the unasked question, “What are you giving to God” and maybe a second question, “Do you complain as much giving to God as you do giving to Caesar?” His response really sets up his answer for another leading question later in the chapter, “What is the greatest command in the law” (Matthew 22:36)? We are all very familiar with Jesus’ response, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.”<sup>38</sup> This is the great and foremost commandment.<sup>39</sup> The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF’” (Matthew 22:37-39). Jesus ends Matthew 22 by asking them a question in which they knew the correct answer would firmly establish Himself as the son of God; something they just didn’t want to believe. In their attempts to trap Jesus in Matthew 22, Jesus basically pointed out they were not giving God nearly what he deserved. He pointed out, despite their knowledge and intelligence, they just didn’t understand much of what they were talking about, but no matter, if they would just put God first in their lives and their neighbors second, everything they weren’t doing or understanding would take care of itself. The truth is, we can answer most of life’s problems and issues today if we will just love God with all our heart, soul and mind and love our neighbors as ourselves, just like He said!

-jeff