

Covington Family News

April 20, 2025

FIRST, NOT SECOND

God and Christ must be first in our lives, and not second. Jesus says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Our number one priority in this short life must be to go to Heaven or otherwise we most likely will not go there. Jesus says, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). If one doesn't go to Heaven, there is only one other place and that is the eternal torments of Hell. "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul" (Mark 8:36)?

We cannot put other people and other things ahead of our service and worship to God and Christ and still be pleasing to Them. (They will not accept second best). Jesus says, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me" (Matthew 10:37-38). Jesus says the only way we can be worthy of God and Him is, "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). We are to "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). God is only "a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6), by putting Him first. Are we really putting God and Christ first in our lives? Judgement Day will be too late to find out if we haven't.

via Bulletin Digest

Ron Boatwright



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Happy Easter!

SERVING THIS WEEK 4/20/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Ken Bringle Jr.
Song Leader: John Combs
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: George Watkins
Closing Prayer: Donnie Benjamin

Nursery Worker: Teri Robinson

Attendance Card Collectors: 4/20)

Jaxton Carter, Nolan Carter, Ethan Matlock

April Door Greeters:

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

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: John Combs
Opening Prayer: Robert Brownlee
Closing Prayer: Nick Maness
Sermon Mike Rogers/Jeff Phillips

MEMORIAL FOR JANUARY

A donation to Covington church of Christ has been given in memory of *Wynona Murray*.

MEMORIALS FOR FEBRUARY

Donations to Covington church of Christ have been given in memory of *Pat Stephenson, Bill Willis, Jeremy Newman, Amber Kramer, Randy Fowler, Gwen Coffee, and Bonnie Glass*.

MEMORIALS FOR MARCH

Donations to Covington church of Christ have been given in memory of *Bonnie Glass, JoAnn Bennett, and Betty White*.

Sunday Bible Classes	164
Worship AM	238
PM	132
Wednesday Bible Study	136

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Florine Wyatt	Jackson, TN
April & Olivia Gyllenhammar	Trosa, Sweden
Noah & Kyley Mason	Murfreesboro, TN
Keylee Hadley	Covington, TN
Marcia Murray	Covington, TN
Cindy Blackwell	Henderson, TN

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

A Growing Church

Text: Acts 2:37-47

It is an exciting and encouraging thing for a Christian to be a part of a growing church. Not simply a church that is increasing numbers, although that is exciting and encouraging; but seeing people changing their lives to follow Jesus and taking on new roles is most exciting.

Acts 2:37-47 reflects a growing church. Many people that heard the gospel preached that day “were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:37)? Peter responded, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them” (2:41).

In this text we see hearts changed by the preaching about Jesus (2:14-36). We see belief in Jesus, repentance, obedience, and we see Spirit guided lives. Verse 42 reflects the growth of those who allow the Spirit to take control. They were “continually devoting themselves” to four vital factors. The words “continually devoting” reveals the idea of true commitment to a life led by the Spirit. Paul explains this further in his letter to the Romans saying that the Roman Christians had “obeyed from the heart . . . the teaching to which they were committed” (Rom. 6:17). Paul also refers to the Spirit led life in Romans 8:5-9 reminding his readers that being led by the Spirit brings “life and peace.” Since the heart is the place where true commitment originates, being led by the Spirit produces commitment to the word of God, “continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching”; to one another (vv.42, 44-46); to remembering the Lord’s death, burial, and resurrection by devoting themselves to the breaking of bread; and to prayer. Devout prayer reflects one’s complete trust and confidence in God.

Further, “everyone kept feeling a sense of awe” (v. 43). This reflects the idea of a feeling deep inside oneself. One might even understand it as the spirit of an individual. The word “awe” may reflect the guidance of the Holy Spirit as He directed their new relationship with the Christ. Finally, we see the result of the commitment in verse 47, they had “favor with all the people.” Churches grow when Christians are committed to the word of God, to one another, to remembering the Lord’s death, and to prayer. When all of these are present people notice; and real church growth is possible.

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Addie Rimmer

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

BIRTHDAYS APRIL 20-26



20—LaVerne Baxter, Lyla Harrell, Donna Sonwineski

21—Craig Robinson, Myla Maness

23—Jennifer McMahan

25—Ian Keith

26—Randi Carter

ANNIVERSARIES

20—Bruce & Fay Hazlerig, Nick & Leann Maness

22—Joey & Allison Cox

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE APRIL 20-26

April 20—11 Kin. 19-21

April 21—11 Kin. 22-25

April 22—1 Chronicles 1-3

April 23—1 Chr. 4-6

April 24—1 Chr. 7-9

April 25—1 Chr. 10-12

April 26—1 Chr. 13-15

Calendar of Events

APRIL EVENTS

19—Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home

20—Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM

21—Monday Night for the Master, Group 3

22, 29—Ladies Bible Class, 10AM

28—Monday Night for the Master, Group 4

Graduation Celebration, Friday, May 2 @ 6PM.

Lads to Leaders

Lads to Leaders Convention, April 18-20;

Theme:

“But God Meant It for Good” (Genesis 50:20)

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!

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to Hannah Phillips in the death of her great grandmother; & to Fay Hazlerig in the death of her nephew, *Justin Willard*.

Carpenter’s Apprentice

We have lots of babies on the way here at Covington church of Christ and several that have already been born. I cannot wait to meet them, hold them, love them and watch them grow. It is exciting to think of all the possibilities and opportunities they will encounter as they grow. Naturally, we want to see them grow into faithful Christians and successful, responsible citizens. But let’s take a minute to reverse the goals. By that I mean, let’s make a plan to make these babies dumber than dirt, reprobates and generally incorrigible citizens. I know, why would anyone do that? Bear with me for a moment. If we were going to develop ignorant, worthless human beings, how would we do it? I think we would start by limiting parental contact and really contact in general. By law, we have to provide food, shelter and clothing, but beyond those, the plan would be to exercise the minimum. Reading to them would be a no-no. Singing to them, providing manipulatives for them to play with and figure out and providing opportunities to socialize would also be out. As they grow, we’d want to let them skip school, take no part in their education whatsoever unless we find there is a teacher there who is simply demanding too much of them, then we would of course go and straighten that teacher out. Making sure their diet is not balanced and they don’t get enough sleep would aid us in our goal of producing a derelict child. We would need to teach them excuses like, “it’s never their fault” and expect nothing but failure from them. We would have to take away any of their self-worth. Spiritually speaking, church attendance, Bible study, prayer and service to others could never be a priority and for sure we could not be caught reading, praying or helping others. After all, it would look bad if we helped others before our own children. Family Bible time would be as out of the question as helping with homework. I am sure this list is not exhaustive and possibly you have thought of other things to add to this make-believe list, because no one looks at a newborn and thinks to themselves, “*Oh, what a scoundrel I am going to turn you into!*” No, what we see is beautiful; a part of us; a gift from God. We see doctors, preachers, nurses and teachers. We see mechanics and bankers, star athletes and inventors. We see “endless possibilities.” Since we are not in the business of raising demoralized, unscrupulous, degenerate children, what is our plan for making them self-confident, self-controlled, strong, intelligent and above all faithful to God’s word? And while no one wants to go or see their family go to Hell and no one wants to be homeless and destitute, what are we teaching them when we ignore teaching them and hand them a screen, or put them to bed without prayer. What are we telling them when we never tell them about Jesus?

-jeff