

Covington Family News

July 6, 2025

Beautiful

A grandmother and a little girl whose face was sprinkled with bright red freckles spent the day at the zoo. The children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws. "You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint," a boy in line cried.

Embarrassed, the little girl dropped her head. Her grandmother knelt down next to her. "I love your freckles," she said. "Not me," the girl replied. "Well, when I was a little girl I always wanted freckles," she said tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!" The little girl looked up, "Really?" "Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The little girl peered into the old woman's smiling face. "Wrinkles," she answered softly.

What a beautiful story of love! How wonderful it is when those who are filled with the wisdom that comes with age can still see the beauty in those who are younger and have much to learn. And how wonderful when those just learning to spread their wings can see the beauty in those who have flown so long they are weary from flying.

"The glory of young men *is* their strength, And the splendor of old men *is* their gray head" (Proverbs 20:29).

With a heart of love, may we see the beauty of God's children both young and old.

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SERVING THIS WEEK 7/6/25 AM Worship Service

Announcements Brad Evins
Song Leader: Beau Phillips
Sermon Mike Rogers

Presiding Over the Lord's Table:

Head: LeRoy Finto
Chris Huggins, Hadley Mason, Garrett Howard, Eason Robinson, Wesley Fowler, Chris Maness, Nick Maness, Caleb Smith

Opening Prayer: Andy Whaley
Closing Prayer: Ron Teems

Nursery Worker: Teresa Stacks

July Bus Driver (7/6)

Luke McMahan

July Door Greeters:

Main Lobby Entrance: Alan & Debbie Otts
Auditorium Entrance: Brenda & Hadley Mason

PM Worship Service

Song Leader: Beau Phillips
Opening Prayer: John Evans
Closing Prayer: Will Thomason
Sermon: Mike Rogers

Sunday Bible Classes	153
Worship AM	187
PM	110
Wednesday Bible Study	101

VISITORS ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS

Lauren Ritter	Lebanon, TN
Cody Smith & family	Covington, TN
Harry Farr	

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

Free from Law
Romans 7:1-6

Paul writes in Romans 7:1-6 regarding the Christian’s freedom from law. Paul is specifically referring to the Mosaic Law, and his analogy of marriage is not to show a death of law, but the death of one bound to law. The emphasis of Paul’s marriage analogy is that “death puts an end to obligations to the Law of Moses.” This analogy joins chapter 6 and man’s death to sin, with man’s death to law (7:4-6).“Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God” (v. 4, emphasis added). One can notice that Paul’s vocabulary carries on the idea of the marriage analogy. “Be joined” (NASB), “belong” (ESV), be married” (KJV) refers to “the saints as wedded to Christ as their husband” (Epistles, 367). “Might bear fruit” suggests that just as one expects a marriage to bear children, one expects the union with Christ to produce righteousness. In 6:22, the fruit of the new union in Christ is righteousness. The old life in sin produced things for which one is “ashamed” (6:21), and fruits which lead to death (7:5). Verses 4-6 puts Paul’s argument, which he began to delineate in 6:1, into a present perspective. He concludes in verse 6 saying, “But now we have been released from the law having died to that in which we were held, so that we are to serve in newness of spirit and not oldness of letter” (7:6, emphasis added). The “we” refers to the same audience that is introduced in 5:1. It is those who have been “justified by faith,” Christians. “Now,” after being justified by faith (5:1), dying to sin (6:7), and dying to law (7:4), they were released from the flesh and the law (7:5), and can now serve God without anxiety or fear. They no longer serve out of obligation, but from an earnest desire to be right with God. So why do we serve God? Not because the law is our master and we have to, but because Christ is our husband and we want to. We are in submission to Him. Not because our obedience produces faith, but because our faith produces obedience. Therefore, in Chapter 7:1-6 Paul, with an analogy from marriage shows that one must “die to the Law through the body of Christ” (7:4b) in order to accept the grace of God and assume the title of slave of righteousness (6:15-18). Paul uses the familiar law concerning marriage to illustrate the point he made in chapter 6—when one dies to sin, he is free from sin. He is no longer a slave to sin but a slave to righteousness. He is no longer under the law that revealed sin, but he is under grace that brings justification (7:1-6).

--Mike Rogers

Prayer List

Michael Wyatt—Recovering from surgery
Tim Scott—Health problems
LaVerne Baxter
Kathy Billings—Stepmother of Heath Billings; broken hip
Megan Davis—Recovering from surgery
Israel, Our Country, Our Missionaries, Heath Billings, Heather Bowner, Captain Mike Shipley, Georgia Cook, Steve Cook, Jeff Cooper, Larry Coughlan, Kenneth Coulston, Alan Davis, Jason Elliott, Malissa Garner, Kay Gatlin, Pat Gatlin, Kyle Hanks, K.C. Haynes, Helen Kennedy, Kathy McMahan, Stan McDevitt, Phyllis McLillie, Judy Merritt, Gigi Miller, Dorothy Morris, Larry Newman, Sophie Nolan, Larry Osbourne, Randy Rhoads, Bonita Rogers, Upton Shelton, Donna Sonwineski, David South, Clint Stacks, Paulette Watkins, Larry Whaley II

NURSING HOME: Covington Care: Shirley Laxton, Cynthia Wilson
Ripley Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center: Vicki Mayfield

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

We extend our deepest sympathy to Terry Wall & family in the death of his dad, *Melvin Wall*; and to Debra Brownlee in the death of her uncle, *Larry Bowee*.

RESPONSE

Robert Brownlee responded Sunday morning repenting and asking for forgiveness. Please remember him.

The Gift You Give Yourself

I always hated buying gifts for my mom. If I got her something like a new set of pans, it was like saying “Here’s something you can use to go make me something to eat.” A gift for her was seemingly a gift for me. There are however gifts you give that benefit you more than the receiver. For example, forgiveness. When you give it, you are giving it to yourself as much as you are giving it to them. Jesus said that when we forgive others it means God is forgiving us our wrongs (Matthew 6:14-15). I once read: “Heaven is where everyone's forgiven. Hell is where nobody's forgiven. So, when we forgive, we pull heaven down into our lives. When we withhold forgiveness, we pull hell up into our lives” Give yourself something nice today, Forgive.

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*Barry Haynes
Hope Church of Christ
Hope, AR*

Calendar of Events

JULY EVENTS

- 2 – Summer Series; Speaker: Mitchell Rogers
- 4 – 4th of July; the church office will be closed
- 6 – Deacons’ Meeting, 4:00
- 9 – Summer Series; Speaker: Daniel Dalton
- 14 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 1 & 2
- 16 – Summer Series; Speaker: Jim Faughn
- 19 – Birthday Party at Magnolia Creek Nursing Home
- 20 – Devotional at Covington Care, 3PM
- 28 – Monday Night for the Master, Groups 3 & 4
- 30 - Devotional/Worship in song

Polishing the Pulpit
Branson, MO--July 16-21
Sevierville, TN--August 15-21

JULY YOUTH EVENTS



- 6-11 – Big Reedy Camp
- 17 – Ignite!
- 20 – Middle/High School Devo
- 21-25 – Day Camp

BIRTHDAYS JULY 6-12



- 7—Eli Fowler
- 8—Tyler Bringle
- 10—Kristine Bringle, Hailey Rimmer
- 11—Evan Nowak, Everleigh Kidd
- 12—Myra Ellis, Eric Keith

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE JULY 6-12

- July 6—Ps. 119
- July 7—Ps. 120-122
- July 8 —Ps. 123-126
- July 9 —Ps. 127-129
- July 10 —Ps. 130-132
- July 11 —Ps. 133-135
- July 12 —Ps. 136-138

Carpenter’s Apprentice

It is always interesting to me how many will recite Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” They will insist there is nothing we can do to deserve or earn salvation and the mere suggestion something like baptism is required has them crying, “FOUL! Works will not get you into heaven!” While I agree works will not get us into heaven, I can’t help but wonder if obedience counts as a work. Surely no one would think all we have to do is, well – nothing. Ephesians 2:10, obviously the very next verse following “saved by grace,” even says we are created for good works and we are to walk in them. Somehow though, verse ten seems casually overlooked. It is not just verse ten though. Chapter 4 starts with Paul imploring or strongly encouraging the church at Ephesus to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called” (Ephesians 4:1). The implication here is very plainly, take action on your belief. The message is made clearer in verse 2, we are to walk “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:2-3). There is a way in which we, those who believe in God and that He sent His only son who willingly came and died on the cross for the sins of all mankind, was raised on the third day, ascended later into heaven and will one day return to gather all of those who in Christ to himself, there is a way in which we are to “walk,” or live life, and it involves **doing something**. Furthermore, doing anything is actually doing a “work.” Strangely, hearing is something you do. Believing is something you do. Repenting and confessing are things you do, but baptism is the only “step” in what we commonly call or refer to as the “Five Steps to Salvation,” baptism is the only step that we cannot DO, rather it must be DONE to us. We must be willing to submit to death, that is dying to self, to be buried by someone else, raised from that burial by someone else and cleansed from all sin by only God. After our “resurrection,” we must go back to the “work” of “walking in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). The “free gift of God” (Romans 6:23) is actually free, undeserved and unearned, but acceptance of the gift – well, that changes everything. If nothing changes; if no one can see the difference in the way I live and the way the world lives; if I fail to live in such a way that brings honor to the God who offered the gift of His son, then guess it would be pretty clear, I did not accept God’s offer. Oh wait, is acceptance a work too?

-jeff