



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place.
(1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Worship 9:30 AM
Bible Study 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 1:30 PM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Bible Call

(618) 667-9603

www.collinsvillecoc.org

COOKIES, CANDY, AND SUCH LIKE

The holiday season, such as that just past, is one of the most difficult times for diabetics. It seems that everywhere one goes, he will find cookies, candies, and such like. These are just the things the diabetic does not need and he must deal with the constant temptation of indulging in those things that cause damage to the body. Of course, it is not merely the holiday season that brings such challenges to the diabetic. Daily he will encounter challenges and temptations to indulge. There are the candies at the check out lanes. There are the desserts after meals. Then, of course, everyone else is indulging, and even offering of their tidbits.

In order to deal with the temptation to indulge, the diabetic has to form the right determination, the right goal, and discipline himself. He must develop the right attitude toward the foods he eats, learning to do what he needs to do. He must exercise right thinking and fill up on foods that are healthy and nutritious. He should seek out support groups and be around those who encourage proper diet and discipline.

Sin is to every person as sweets are to the diabetic. Sin is tasty. It brings pleasure to the one who indulges (Hebrews 11:25). Yet, as the wrong foods can be harmful to the diabetic, even bringing death, sin is harmful to the spiritual being and brings spiritual death (James 1:15; Romans 6:23). Therefore, as the diabetic deals with cookies, candies, and such like, all must deal with sin.

One must form the right determination and discipline themselves. Overcoming temptation will not happen by accident. It comes by discipline and self-control (1 Corinthians 9:25-27). The Olympic athlete will focus and discipline himself to spend hours in training, eat the proper foods, and make other sacrifices. The Christian must likewise develop the proper focus (Colossians 3:1-2; Hebrews 12:1-2). He must have the fixed determination to rise above sin and temptation and be steadfast in striving for heaven. He will choose honesty, purity, faithfulness and more.

One must develop the right attitude toward sin. He must develop the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5). It was

popular a few years ago to wear wrist bands with the letters WWJD, which stood for, "What would Jesus do." The Christian needs to develop the attitude of having the mind of Christ, of doing what Jesus would do. He must let Christ live through him (Galatians 2:20).

One must learn to exercise right thinking. One cannot add to a full bucket. Therefore, one needs to fill his bucket with that which is right, thinking on right things (Philippians 4:8). God has given the key to victory, bringing every thought into captivity (2 Corinthians 10:5). When thoughts are dominated by the word of God, one will overcome temptation.

One must surround himself with right companions. There are wickedness and immorality all around. If you don't want to get up with fleas, don't sleep with the dogs. You will be affected by the company you keep (1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Corinthians 5:6). Be concerned about the people you befriend. Be careful who is by your side to influence you.

There are differences, though, between diabetes and spiritual life. Eating a few cookies, candies and such like in moderation is acceptable. However, even the smallest indulgence in sin will be fatal spiritually if it is not repented of and forgiven. The alien sinner must yield to Christ as his Savior, being baptized into Christ as a penitent believer in order to be forgiven (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). The Christian must turn back to God (repent) and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9).

Begin today to develop the right determination, the right attitude, and the right thinking. Associate with those who will encourage you.

TLM

“As for Me” then “My House”

They were blessed with a newborn baby and suddenly reality took hold. They realized that the physical and spiritual care for this little one was in their hands.

As Joshua's time came to a close, he challenged the people of Israel saying, “If it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve—as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15). One cannot help but notice that Joshua's statement emphasizes first himself, “as for me,” in the decision made to serve the Lord. All individuals must draw the proper conclusion and decide for themselves the path which they will follow before they can help those around them. Unless we ourselves are dedicated and determined to serve the Lord we cannot expect our own family to do likewise. “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit?” (Luke 6:39). “Does a spring bring forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a slat pond yield fresh water” (James 3:11-12). Can an uncommitted person bring forth a committed family? How determined are you in serving the Lord?

Your children and children's children are affected by the choices you make now in serving the Lord God Almighty. God instructs fathers to “bring them [their children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). The older women are to teach the younger woman to “love their husbands and children” (Titus 2:4). It has been said that during the younger

years a boy will cling to his mother to learn about the type of woman he ought to marry and when he gets older he will cling to his father to learn about the man he ought to become. What kind of example do you set for the future generations? “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). Does your verbal and non-verbal training point your family in the direction they should go?

As for you whom are you serving? If you serve self it is likely that your family will serve themselves. If you worship without heart, so will your family. If you do not attend worship like you should, neither will your family. If you value money, stuff and hobbies above God, so will your family.

Determine today to serve the Lord to the best of your ability. Allow your influence to spread through those you love that you can honestly say, “As for me and my house we will serve the Lord.”

- Robert E. Guinn

Mabery's Minutes



The theme for the year is, “Press on to the goal.” This is taken from Philippians 3:12-14. In the context, Paul indicated two goals to which one should press on toward and pursue with all their might. As Paul indicated, he was made mature in the faith when he was baptized. Neither had he become perfect or complete in faith after years of preaching the gospel. He continued to pursue it with all his might.

Christianity is a process of continued growth. That process is necessary in the pursuit of the second goal, “the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” That is our ultimate goal, being clothed with the glory of Christ in eternity (Philippians 3:20-21). Let us press on throughout the year and beyond.

The Correspondent
Collinsville Church of Christ
1400 Troy Road
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: (618) 667-6708
Email: collinsvillecoc@att.net