

Contending Lawfully

By Kevin Cauley

“And if also a man contend in the games, he is not crowned, except he have contended lawfully” (2 Timothy 2:5).

Human beings have probably been playing games since time began. Games are a healthy outlet for the competitive spirit when they are played fairly. For games to be played fairly, there must be an agreed upon set of rules. Without such rules, the game is not fun for either the winner or the loser, but when we follow the rules, there is something healthy to winning fairly and squarely. There is also something healthy to losing fairly and squarely. Both winning and losing teach us about ourselves.

The apostle Paul was no stranger to games. He knew of the Isthmian games because he wrote about them in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. He also knew of the Olympic games which were held in alternating years. Those games even included poetry competitions, another area of culture with which the apostle Paul was familiar. Whether the sport was boxing, writing poetry, or playing the lyre, there were certain rules that participants were obliged to follow if they desired to compete. Only when they followed these rules and won could they be said to have triumphed.

Contending lawfully in the games is a metaphor for contending lawfully in life by living virtuously. If we expect to be crowned with the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8), we cannot compete in the game of life unlawfully. We must follow the standard of behavior that God has given us through His Son Jesus Christ. That is what Paul means when he says that such a crown will be given to those who have “loved his appearing.” To live otherwise is to cheat, and cheaters will not win in eternity.

Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	October 22, 2023 AM	October 22, 2023 PM	October 29, 2023 AM
Greeter	Jerry Thompson	Brent Fourman	Dustin Desarro
Announcements	Duane Kemp	John McGiffin	Jason Bang
Song Leading	Mike Illink	Duane Kemp	John McGiffin
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Tom Muter	Jerry Thompson	Seth Arrell
Lord's Supper Comments	Tim Bang	Tom Muter	Jerry Thompson
Scripture Reading	Seth Arrell	Tim Bang	Duane Kemp
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	Tim Bang
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Chris McGiffin	Jason Bang	Tom Muter

Things you should know about...

We are sending donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you'd like to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason. The next donation will be sent after the end of December.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dianna Bang 10/27	Caroline Stine 11/5	Duane Kemp 11/15
Sharon Desarro 11/1	Chris McGiffin 11/5	Heather Fourman 11/26
Evelyn Rohr 11/4	Linda Whittington 11/14	Viola Schultz 11/28

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House to House, Heart to Heart Workshop:

Training the Saved to Teach the Lost

This Week - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday @ 6:30pm each evening

We will be having a quick meal with our church members before the workshop.

Let Dianna *today* know if you plan to join us.

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Fall Harvest Party @ the Thompson's

Saturday, October 28th @ 3:30pm (weather permitting)

Fried chicken provided... bring side dishes and dessert to share. You will also need to bring your own drink and lawn chairs. Kids can dress up in costumes, there will be games to play and candy, in addition to the hayride to get a pumpkin.

5733 w. Kessler Cowlesville Rd - West Milton

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Men's meeting after AM service on Nov. 19th

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Upcoming Events:

Daylight Savings Ends (fall back 1 hr) - November 5th
 Thanksgiving food basket delivery - November 22nd
 Congregation Holiday Party - December 9th
 Holiday basket/gift delivery - December 20th

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This week's Bible Verse

"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward." Matthew 6:2

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**Lord's Supper Reflection**

*To Show That the Worst Evil Can be Used by God for Good*

"...So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them...'" Acts 4:23-28

**Offering Meditation**

*God expected people to give their best.*

"The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God." Exodus 23:19

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Remember in Prayer:

- *Our Country & leaders
- *Phyllis Caldwell - recovering from a fall,
- *Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- *Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- *Larry Bey - dealing with Parkinson's, recovering from a fall
- *Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - dementia and health
- *Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- *Terry McGiffin (John McGiffin's dad) - health & stability/balance issues, also keep Doreen in prayer as his caregiver
- *Luanne Listner (wife of Tim Bang's friend) - recovering from surgery
- *Tim Hickerson (from Mid-County Church of Christ) - just diagnosed with stage 4 cancer

- *Jane Topps (Tom Muter's sister) - has skin cancer, recovering from a procedure
- *Karen Oyler (Stephanie Bang's friend) - upcoming chemo treatments
- *Family members of Carol Kemp dealing with various health concerns

How can we be praying for YOU?

Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

**Sunday, October 14**

Bible Classes 34  
AM Attendance 37  
PM Attendance 13

**Wednesday, October 18**

Bible Classes 20  
Contribution \$1,166.00



**GREENVILLE CHURCH of CHRIST**  
CHRIST CENTERED. BIBLE BASED. FAMILY ORIENTED.

October 22, 2023

Worship Times:

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

www.greenvillecoc.org

Hello! We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.