

# Washington church of Christ

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[washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com](http://washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com)

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## Order of Services

### Sunday, October 14, 2012

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Derald Sanchez
Prayer for the Cup	Glenn Montgomery
Prayer for the Collection	Lee Redd
Assisting at the Table	Brian Jeffries
Closing Prayer	Tom Dolan
Announcements	Scott Thomas

### Sunday, October 21, 2012

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Lee Redd
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	David Osinski
Prayer for the Cup	Gennaro Ruggiero
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
Announcements	Scott Thomas

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## Schedule of Weekly Services

Sunday Morning Bible Classes	9:30 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	7:30 pm

# The Washington Messenger

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October 14, 2012

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## Deo volente...

The title for this article is a Latin phrase that some say has its origin from James 4:15. If you've not yet determined what it means let's take a look at the verse in its context of James 4:13-17.

In this passage the apostle James gives us some very practical advice relative to planning for the future. However, before sharing that counsel, he considers three specific sins which would prevent us from planning for the future according to God's will.

He first speaks to the sin of presumption ...

*Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit";* (James 4:13 NKJV)

This sin of presumption is an arrogant display of pride. James warns about this sin within a context that would have been very familiar to those to whom his letter was addressed. He uses the analogy of a Jewish merchant who makes his plans to go to another city, spends a year there by buying and selling, and then returns home with a profit.

This merchant presumes that his plans are his to make, and that God has nothing to say about it. He plans, and it is done. Solomon warned about such presumption ...

*Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.* (Proverbs 27:1 NKJV)

We tend to forget that we are mere human beings who are finite. We do not know what tomorrow will bring ... we don't see the "Big Picture". Only God has that ability. He alone is infinite and all-knowing.

James exhorts us to not be presumptuous about our plans. He additionally tells us to not be presumptuous about life itself. He depicts life as a vapor or mist which appears for a while and then vanishes away (James 4:14). Our lives are not in our hands. They are in God's hands.

Jesus reminded us of this important truth as he presented a graphic parable of a rich man who was so wealthy that his barns were filled to overflowing ...

*Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'* (Luke 12:16-19 NKJV)

It is presumptuous to think that we can live and plan without God. This presumption denies who we are, who God is, and how much we need God day by day. Indeed, life is a gift of God which comes by His love and mercy.

... yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. (James 4:14 ESV)

James then addresses the sin of boasting ...

*But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.* (James 4:16 NKJV)

The Greek word for boasting is *alazoneía*. In his Dictionary on New Testament Greek Words, W.E. Vine wrote that "the practice of an *alazon*, denotes quackery; hence, "arrogant display, or boastings." This definition might match the actions of a medicine man of the frontier days in America. This quack offered cures which were not cures, and he boasted of things which he was unable to do.

Interestingly enough, the Greek word *alazoneía* appears again in 1 John 2:16, where it is translated "*pride of life*." When we think of the sin of boasting we can see that it is a sin based upon the invalid assumption that we are able to control our own destiny ... that we have the power to determine the course of our own lives.

James says that this boasting is evil. This is the same word for evil, *ponērós*, which is used in the prayer which the Lord taught His disciples in saying "*deliver us from evil*" (Matthew 6:13).

James next speaks of the sin of omission ...

*Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.* (James 4:17 NKJV)

Many of us might find that this is a most difficult form of sin with which to deal, in that it reinforces the fact that sin is missing the mark by not only doing wrong, but by failing to do what is right. Simply put ... to know what is right and then not to do it is a form of disobedience. The Lord gives us a commandment, and we either ignore it or simply fail to do it.

Jesus shared a prime example of such a person in His parable of the talents. Two of the men who received talents from their master invested them wisely and received great reward from their master who was well-pleased. However, one of the men buried his talent and simply returned to the master what he had received. With him, the master was exceedingly displeased and punished him severely (Matthew 25:14-30). The man had sinned against his master and against himself. In fact, this may be one of the most common sins of contemporary Christians ... the sins of omission. God has given us so much, and we often do so little with it ... we miss the mark repeatedly because we fail to do what the Lord is calling us to do.

After identifying the three specific sins, James shares with us a practical formula which we should use in making our plans for the future. This simple and important formula contains one basic contention, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

Instead of presuming or boasting or missing the mark by failing to do God's will, we should commit ourselves to the Lord, and to doing His will. Our planning is based upon the conviction that our lives and our future are not in our own hands but in the Lord's.

The apostle Paul used a phrase similar to the one in James 4:15 ...

*For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, if the Lord permits.* (1 Corinthians 16:7 NKJV)

Oh, the title of this article? The Latin phrase, *Deo volente* simply means God willing. It, whether in Latin or English, should become a motto of our lives. We should live with complete dependence upon the sovereign will of God. Our lives are His ... the future is His. Isn't that a Great Blessing within itself!

... **Bob James**

## ***Our Prayer List...***

- ⤴ Donna Banghart ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... Phyllis Smith ... Linda Davis of the church at West Point ... our young people here at Washington ... our young people away at college ... our congregation.

*"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him."* (1 John 5:14-15 NIV)

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## ***Coming Events - Home & Away...***

- ⤴ There will be a "short" meeting with all teachers after services this morning. We will discuss the suggestion to use Bob and Sandra Waldron's 17 Time Period material as the basis for our Bible School curriculum.
- ⤴ A Prayer Gathering will be hosted by Ralph and Veronika Ruggiero on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, starting at 4:30pm. All members are encouraged to participate.
- ⤴ The next Ladies Class will be Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The class will meet in the Stewart St. home. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.
- ⤴ The church in Exton will host a Fall Gospel Lectureship Series on October 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. A flyer is on the Bulletin Board.
- ⤴ Marty Pickup will be preaching at the Upper West Manhattan congregation on October 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> on the theme Real Reasons to Believe in Jesus as Portrayed in the Bible. A flyer is on the Bulletin Board.
- ⤴ The Fair Lawn congregation will host a Gospel Meeting at the Passaic County Community College Theater in Patterson, NJ. Jady Copeland from the Upper West Manhattan church will deliver the lessons. The dates are November 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Items of Note...***

- ⤴ The Lord willing, we will continue our series of sermons from the book of Philippians on the theme "***To Live is Christ***". This morning's lesson will focus on the *Enablement for Living the Christian Life*.
- ⤴ There are still openings on the schedule for *Building Preparation*. Those desiring to assist can check the Bulletin Board in the foyer and sign-up.