

# Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

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

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## Order of Services

### 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

### Sunday, October 28, 2012

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Ralph Ruggiero
Prayer for the Cup	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Collection	Pete Ferencze
Assisting at the Table	Gennaro Ruggiero
Closing Prayer	Bill Duryea
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

Volume 1 – Number 8

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October 21, 2012

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## Remembering How to Blush...

Our God truly is GREAT! He has, always, and continues even now, to provide for the needs of mankind through His love, patience, and grace. And, it often seems that the world has developed an attitude of compliancy, or even obstinacy, towards the recognition of God, His grace, and His will for our lives.

As Christians it is often easy for us to look at the lives of those in the world and pass judgment relative to their obedience to God ... and, we need to be watchful that we heed the admonition of Paul in his letter to the Romans...

*Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (Romans 2:1-4 NKJV)*

The prophet Jeremiah spoke of a "condition" in which the children of God had become so accustomed to sin and evil that they had seemingly lost their sense of "right" and "wrong". God had shown Jeremiah a picture of total depravity ... a situation where there could not be found so much as one person who held to moral standards or who sought the truth. Although the people swore by the Lord, it was merely lip service...

*"Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her. Though they say, 'As the LORD lives,' Surely they swear falsely." (Jeremiah 5:1-2 NKJV)*

Imagine the prophet weaving his way through the congested streets, staring into "faces harder than rock" (Jeremiah 5:3), trying to find proof that God was exaggerating His claim of His children's sins. Surely it can't be this bad. The Apostle Paul's statement to the Romans carries the same sense of anguish ...

*As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS; THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS AFTER GOD." (Romans 3:10-11 NKJV)*

We may remember how Abraham reacted to God's judgment of the total corruption of Sodom and Gomorrah. God allowed him the negotiating prayers and agreed to save the city for the presence of ten righteous men. When Lot and his family were removed, however, there were none left in the city who were not in hopeless rebellion against God.

Jeremiah even searched among the most educated and affluent ...

*I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the LORD, The judgment of their God." But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds. (Jeremiah 5:5 NKJV)*

He may have been thinking that the wealthy and the educated would not be as diseased with sin. Secular thinking embraces the notion that mankind is about the business of improving itself. With enough education, enough charity, enough economic programs, we will perfect the human race.

The revelation of Scripture and of this passage in particular, is that the problem is sin. It infects the poor and the rich, the young and the old, male and female, educated and uneducated, nice people and nasty people. All that prevents our catastrophic demise is the presence in a nation of those who, in confession and repentance, have turned their hearts toward God.

Jeremiah found total wickedness ... and maybe worse still, that's the way people wanted it...

*The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end? (Jeremiah 5:31 NKJV)*

And, even more condemning was this conclusion...

*Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. (Jeremiah 6:15 NKJV)*

I sometimes wonder if in this culture we remember how to blush. There was a time when our professional athletes were content to buy sports cars with their enormous salaries. Now they buy cocaine. World class athletes in prestigious marathons, bicycle races, and Olympic events are caught cheating. On Wall Street, stockbrokers, whose hefty incomes do not seem to be enough, engage in insider trading, and are often regarded as being "so smart, that they almost got away with it".

People who should be hanging their heads are instead selling their shamelessness for book and movie contracts. How often do we see famous and prestigious people convicted of running multi-million-dollar scams, who further capitalize from their "indiscretions" through the release of a book, the sale of television and movie rights, and an extensive lecture circuit schedule ... all because the people love it so!

In Jesus' prayer to the Father for us he stated that we are "*not of the world*" (John 17:14). As children of God we must never forget that fact.

We can never allow our lives to become so influenced by the attitudes, actions, and predilections of the world that we lose our understanding of what is "right" and "wrong", and our humility towards our God.

May we, like the Psalmist David, be such that we pry to our God ...

*Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. ... Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalms 51:1-3, 10 NKJV)*

## **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...**

- ▲ 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 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...**

- ▲ We are continuing our work to complete our new two year Bible School Curriculum. As discussed last week our plan is to use Bob and Sandra Waldron's *17 time Periods of the Bible* material. Anyone with questions and those wanting to volunteer to teach during the next three quarters should see Bob James.
- ▲ Though it's still a few months away, we are planning our Spring 2013 Gospel Meeting with Tommy Peeler from FC. We are currently targeting the week of March 10<sup>th</sup>, so please plan your 2013 spring vacations and travels around that date if at all possible.
- ▲ We had a brief preview of our new Washington church of Christ website this past Wednesday evening. Lord willing we are only two weeks away from its public launch. Anyone with suggestions and or questions for the new site should see Bob James.
- ▲ 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.