

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, October 28, 2012

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Preaching	Ralph Ruggiero
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Lee Redd
Prayer for the Cup	Bob DeGrado
Prayer for the Collection	Pete Ferencze
Assisting at the Table	Gennaro Ruggiero
Closing Prayer	Bill Duryea
Announcements	Scott Thomas

Sunday, November 4, 2012

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Bob Celentano
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bill Duryea
Prayer for the Cup	Glenn Montgomery
Prayer for the Collection	Lee Redd
Assisting at the Table	Bob Wydro
Closing Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Announcements	Brian Jeffries

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 28, 2012

Christ is the Answer...

Over the years I have seen this phrase used on various church signs and marquees. Although it does not appear verbatim in the New Testament, God's Word does reveal that the sum and substance of the thought it presents is true.

No matter what the question, Christ is the answer ... no matter what the problem, Christ is the solution. The apostle Paul declares;

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (Colossians 2:9-10 NKJV)

At times the problems which confront us today may seem insurmountable. But, when we look into God's Word we can see how completely Christ supplies the answer to each and every one of them!

We must first be willing to look to Him for guidance. The prophet Jeremiah wrote...

O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. (Jeremiah 10:23 NKJV)

To live a life that is pleasing to God, and to ultimately be granted entrance into that place called Heaven we must have guidance. Our own self-direction will never attain us the reward of hearing God say "*Well done, good and faithful servant*", (Matthew 25:23).

Christ is the answer to the critical need of guidance for all men. He assures us...

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJV)

And again He says...

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12 NKJV)

Christ is the only adequate answer to our need for guidance!

Our world more times than not, seems to be only moments away from another world-wide conflict. The diplomats of leading nations are failing miserably in solving the problems of peaceful human relations. International distrust and suspicion abound, and result in all nations subscribing to the theory of "might makes right", and that the only way to maintain a peaceful existence is seemingly through fear and intimidation. But, the answer is not in arms and armies, but rather in an analysis of ourselves, and the reasons behind our actions.

Selfishness, covetousness, and a lack of respect for the right of others are the major causes of aggression and the violation of human rights. Arms and armies would become obsolete, and aggressor nations would vanish, if all nations would seek the answer of Christ for their issues of human relations.

Not only does this apply on a national level, but also on a personal level. Many of our personal relationships resemble those on the national level we just mentioned. We often live among those in the world, our co-workers in the workplace, and sadly even among those of our homes, in an atmosphere of suspicion, doubt, and discomfort. Our inner angst manifests itself in our outward actions.

How easily would peace be attained, and maintained, both nationally and in our personal relationships, by application of this simple formula...

Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12 NKJV)

Jesus' answer to Peter's query on forgiveness should be noted...

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. (Matthew 18:21-22 NKJV)

Another help to us in developing and maintaining viable personal relationships is found in Jesus' response to the lawyer who asked what was required to "inherit eternal life"...

So he answered and said, "'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND,' and 'YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. (Luke 10:27 NKJV)

There is attention given today on the issue of education. Our government officials and many leaders of secular institutes of learning are declaring the current environment and situation to be inadequate. It is a matter of fact that this attention is gravely needed, however, the life of Jesus' reminds us that our children must be given a well-balanced education to insure academic success.

Many parents are convinced that they have done well if they facilitate the intellectual educating of their children. These children may receive a degree from an institute of higher learning, and yet be illiterate of God and His Will for their lives.

The education which Jesus demonstrates cannot be improved. The Bible teaches that Jesus grew in wisdom (*intellectually*) and maturity (*physically*), and in favor with God (*Spiritually*) and his fellow man (*socially*) (Luke 2:52 ISV). Certainly, the parent whose child's growth follows this pattern has answered the problem of education through the example of Christ.

Lastly, only in the Christ can we find the answer to the problems which our sins have created. These sins cannot be ignored, and unless they are remitted we will be separated from God eternally (John 8:21; Revelation 21:27). Jesus shed His blood for the remission of our sins (Matthew 26:28), and after His sufferings He announced the terms of pardon to a sinful world (Mark 16:16).

Faith (Hebrews 11:6), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession of Christ (Matthew 10:32), and baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), are the terms in the answer given by Christ to the universal problem of sin and spiritual death.

Christ is the sufficient answer to every need, desire, and problem of man.

If you have not fulfilled your need for a Savior by accepting Him in accordance with His Word, won't you do so today?

... **Bob James**

Our Prayer List...

- ⤴ Donna Banghart ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... Linda Davis of the church at West Point ... our young people here at Washington ... our young people away at college ... our men and women in military service ... leaders of our nation ... leaders of our congregation ... 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)

Coming Events - Home & Away...

- ⤴ Our last scheduled Pot-Luck of the season is scheduled for next Sunday, November 4th. Bob and Kathleen Wydro will host in their home.
- ⤴ The church in Bethlehem will host a Gospel Lecture series with young men from our local area presenting the lessons. The date is November 2nd through 4th. 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 1st through 4th.

Items of Note...

- ⤴ We are continuing our work to complete our new two year Bible School Curriculum based on Bob and Sandra Waldron's *17 time Periods of the Bible*. This Sunday evening's the lesson will focus on The Bible Story, our objective for these studies, and next steps to be completed before the coming Bible School period begins.
- ⤴ Our new Washington church of Christ website has launched and is now online at www.washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com. Each member is encouraged to take a look at it. We also encourage each member to register for access to the "members" section. Each week additional content will be added to the site ... and as always, please feel free to give me your suggestions and or questions ... 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 10th, so please plan your 2013 spring vacations and travels around that date if at all possible.