

# Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

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

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## Order of Services

### Sunday, January 13, 2013

Song Leader	Tom Dolan
Prayer	Lee Redd
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Peter Ferencze
Prayer for the Cup	Scott Thomas
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
Announcements	Ralph Ruggiero

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

- ▲ It's getting closer ... that is our Spring 2013 Gospel Meeting with Tommy Peeler from FC. The dates are March 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> ... that's Sunday – Wednesday. Please plan your 2013 spring vacations and travels around that date if at all possible.
  - ▲ Additionally, our Fall 2013 Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Joe Works from the Fair Lawn, NJ congregation will be preaching.
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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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## Where is God?

As blessed a nation as we are, significant tragedies still occur from time to time. And, whenever there is significant loss of life or of material possessions, it is not uncommon to hear someone ask, "Where is God".

There is a tendency of man to not be concerned with the presence of God when all things are good and pleasing in our lives ... in fact, God and all things related to Him are often ignored and avoided during these times. However, whenever calamity or disaster strikes, His presence is sought.

I compare this tendency to a game we often play with babies ... we close our eyes and since we can't see the baby we act as though we don't know where he, or she, is ... we create the perception that if we can't see them, they are not there. It seems that man has carried that game to another conclusion ... if we chose not to recognize God, then He must not exist!

According to the Bible the history of man begins with man knowing God. This history is not the story of a beast that worshiped idols, and then evolved into a man worshipping one God ... it is just the opposite!

In Romans 1:20-23 Paul paints a picture of the Gentiles digression from God.

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. (Romans 1:20-23)*

In J.W. McGarvey's commentary on this passage he states that "the general truths as to God's nature and attributes was made known to the Gentiles in that God Himself so manifested it, causing His invisible attributes, even His power and divinity to be constantly and clearly revealed in the providential working of nature from the hour of nature's beginning until now. "

He further states that "when they knew God they did not worship Him according to the knowledge which they had, nor did they praise Him for His benefits. Rather, they erred in their minds which made their whole inner man dark, because they did not have the light of the truth with which they started."

They knew God. But they did not want to know God or honor Him as God. Instead of being thankful for all that God had given them, they refused to thank God or give Him the glory He deserves. They were willing to receive God's gifts ... but were not willing to worship or praise God for these gifts. The result was an empty mind. Man the worshiper became man the philosopher...but his empty wisdom only revealed his foolishness.

Jeremiah spoke of this type of situation in Jeremiah 8:8-9.

*"How can you say, 'We are wise, And the law of the LORD is with us'? Look, the false pen of the scribe certainly works falsehood. The wise men are ashamed, They are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD; So what wisdom do they have?"*

In their refusing to acknowledge God's glory, they were left without a god ... and because man is so constructed to worship God ... if he will not worship the true God, he will worship a false god ... even if he has to manufacture it himself. And so they did! Note what is first on the list in verse 23 of our text ... does this not remind you of the statement the Devil made to Eve in Genesis 3:5?

The Gentiles knew God but refused to recognize and accept Him as the only true and living God.

Could a refusal to accept God as the only true and living God be the reason so many men and women question His presence today? They don't want to acknowledge Him in our government, or in our schools, or in our libraries, or in our recreations, or on our money. And for some, even in their homes.

Where is God? He is in the hearts of those who put their faith and trust in Him and obey Him!

*Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23)*

And, our obedience puts us into Christ.

*But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. (1 John 2:5)*

Those who love, obey, and worship God will never have need to question His presence ... or theirs!

*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen. (1 John 5:19-21)*

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

✠ The Duryea's daughter Heather ... Everett Guyton ... Donna Banghart ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... our young people here at Washington ... our young people away at college ... the 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)*

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

- ✠ There will be a Ladies Bible Study on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30pm.
- ✠ We will begin a series of Men's Leadership Studies. The first class is scheduled for Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- ✠ The weekly topics and reading assignments for the Bible Studies are posted on the home page of our website and the lesson material can be printed from the Member's Shared Files section.
- ✠ Remember, as a part of our Bible School program each family should strive to have a review each week of the material discussed in our classes.
- ✠ Anyone desiring a family or an individual Bible Study should contact me (Bob James). I keep Tuesdays and Thursdays open for these studies.