

## Washington church of Christ

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### Order of Services

**Sunday, May 19, 2013**

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Daniel Wydro
Prayer for the Cup	Bob Wydro
Prayer for the Collection	Pete Ferencze
Assisting at the Table	Matt Grimaldi
Scripture Reading	Patrick Wydro
Morning Closing Prayer	Pete Ferencze
Evening Opening Prayer	Antonio Ruggiero
Announcements	Bill Duryea

# The Washington Messenger

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**May 19, 2013**

### God's Power Unto Salvation...

This statement by the Apostle Paul contains many things which deserve our earnest consideration. Since *"all have sinned"* (Romans 3:23), salvation is a universal need. In this same letter, Paul warns that the *"wages of sin is death"*, then revives hope by stating that *"the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"*. (Romans 6:23)

The only means by which man may escape the penalty for sin, and receive the gift of eternal life is the Gospel, *the power of God unto salvation*. It is a most wonderful manifestation of the grace of God that we may know of this way of escape from destruction, and of access to life.

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (Titus 2:11 NKJV)*

Our first step should be to correctly identify this wonderful power. The Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians that he had preached to them the gospel and by it they were saved.

*Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:1-2 NKJV)*

He then identifies the facts of the gospel in this manner:

*For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:3-4 NKJV)*

In the *Scriptures* referenced by Paul, the Apostle Peter says;

*Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ... —things which angels desire to look into. (1 Peter 1:10-12 NKJV)*

Paul had delivered the gospel, the "good news" that Christ had become their ransom, by dying for the sins of man.

This one fact of the gospel adds to the boldness of Paul's assertion that he was *"ready to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome also"*. (Romans 1:15)

Rome was the seat of the government at that time. From there the Emperor ruled the world with power and might. Yet Paul was ready to preach the gospel there, and to tell those who recognized force and power that God had allowed His Son to suffer

a cruel death that they might live. A Roman citizen was exempt from the humiliating treatment that Christ received, (Acts 22:25) especially death by crucifixion. Yet Paul was not ashamed to proclaim the story of the crucifixion of Christ, and his reason is quickly given when he says that it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe! The Romans too shared the universal need for it.

This attitude toward the simple gospel is needed by all today. Many persons are ashamed of the gospel, or of the conditions of salvation (Mark 16:16) which are contained in the gospel. Others, unashamed of Christ are ashamed of the facts of the gospel such that they deny the Deity of Christ and acclaim Him as a great teacher and a man of superior character. The power of God unto salvation is nullified in the life of any person who is ashamed of **any part** of the gospel.

These stated facts of the gospel are also a safe criterion for determining the time when the *gospel age*, in which we live, began. Just reading *“that Christ died for our sins ... was buried ... and that He arose the third day”* makes obvious that *“the power of God unto salvation”* was not preached in fact during the days of Moses and the prophets. Nor was it preached during the days of John the Baptist. John preceded the Lord Jesus in death by about a year, (Matthew 14:10) so he could not have preached these facts of the gospel. The gospel by which the Corinthians were saved had these three events as **facts**, not promises. John could not preach that Christ had died and risen again from the dead before these events occurred.

This is also true of Christ. During His earthly ministry Jesus preached *“the gospel of the Kingdom of God”* (Mark 1:14) not the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation. He first had to perform these very deeds which compose the gospel of Christ.

The obvious conclusion is that the gospel of Christ, with its conditions of salvation from sin, could only be preached after the resurrection of Christ, and not before. That which Christ spoke to the sinful woman in John 8:11, or to the thief while He was on the cross (Luke 23:43) cannot be the power of God unto salvation today, for Christ had not then died for our sins. We must observe and obey that which Christ gave as conditions of salvation **after** he arose from the dead.

Christ instructed His Apostles;

*And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”* (Mark 16:15-16 NKJV)

We need to place special emphasis upon the gospel as *“the power of God unto Salvation”*. Men often lose the beauty of the gospel by failing to realize that they are lost, and that the Gospel is God’s power to save them.

Too frequently someone may say, “You think that if a person is not baptized, he will be lost.” But, the person is already lost, so baptism doesn’t enter into the condition he’s in. Notice Jesus’ words to His Apostles, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved”*. The gospel is God’s power to save, not to condemn. In it God and Christ hold out to lost mankind the salvation they will bestow upon all who accept and obey its conditions. Those who reject these conditions for any reason, reject salvation ... for the gospel is **the** power of God unto salvation. Not one of many different powers.

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

Bill Duryea’s brother-in-law (Brian) ... Doug Focht ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... Donna Banghart ... Glenn Montgomery’s father ... 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)

## ***EVENTS AND NOTES***

WE WILL HAVE THE THURSDAY MORNING STUDY THIS WEEK STARTING AT 11AM ... ALL ARE WELCOME.

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

- ⤴ THE NEXT LADIES BIBLE STUDY WILL BE THURSDAY, MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>. ALL LADIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.
- ⤴ THE NEXT MEN’S CLASS IS THURSDAY, MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>. ALL MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.
- ⤴ OUR NEXT PRAYER GATHERING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE SEE BOB WYDRO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST THIS SESSION.
- ⤴ A GOSPEL LECTURE SERIES AT THE UPPER WEST MANHATTAN CONGREGATION ON JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup>. FIVE YOUNG EVANGELISTS FROM THE METRO AREA WILL PRESENT THE LESSONS. A FLYER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ⤴ NORTHEAST FC CAMP, JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> – JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>.
- ⤴ WASHINGTON LADIES’ RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup>.
- ⤴ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOE WORKS OF THE FAIR LAWN CONGREGATION ON OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup>.