

## Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

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

# The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 28

**August 18, 2013**

## Order of Services Sunday, August 18, 2013

Song Leader	Tom Dolan
Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Lee Redd
Prayer for the Cup	Pete Ferencze
Prayer for the Collection	Bill Duryea
Assisting at the Table	Brian Jeffries
Scripture Reading	David Osinski
Morning Closing Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Evening Opening Prayer	Scott Thomas
Announcements	Matt Grimaldi

## 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
Thursday Morning Bible Study	11:00 am

### Religious Extremists...

The title of extremist is one that has come into widespread usage recently. It is usually applied in a critical manner to some person, or group, whose views are opposite of the one using the term. People don't typically admit to being an extremist in any field, but rather we consider ourselves to be patterns of moderation. In the realm of religion, this tendency is especially prevalent.

However, there is a sense in which all men must be extremists in religion. Jesus teaches that all men are in one of two positions when He declared;

*He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.* (Matthew 12:30 NKJV)

Those who are with Christ are in the extreme position from those who are against Him.

In today's article, let's consider some Bible truths which are exactly between the two extremes of error practiced and taught by man. Those who hold to either extreme of these important issues are asked to consider prayerfully the medium of truth cited in each example.

**The relationship of works and salvation** – Some affirm that salvation is wholly by grace, and that no works are needed. At the other end of the extreme are the groups which espouse a system of meritorious works required to be pleasing to God. The Bible teaches that we cannot please God without faith;

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV)

And, that we show our faith by our works;

*But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.* (James 2:18 NKJV)

It further teaches that;

*Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.* (James 2:17 NKJV)

Christ is said to be the "Author of eternal salvation to all that obey him" (Hebrews 5:9).

But, after we have done these works of obedience, the Bible states;

*But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy*

*He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, (Titus 3:4-5 NKJV)*

**The church** – Here we have extremes ranging from “many churches” and “the church of your choice”, to “no church, because I will live a good moral life” and “the church has nothing at all to do with salvation”. The Scriptures teach that “... *Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*” (Ephesians 5:25 KJV)

The church is called “His body” (Ephesians 1:23), and Paul follows this with the declaration “*there is one body*” (Ephesians 4:4). We are also taught that Christ is the Savior of the body (Ephesians 5:23), which excludes the position of being saved outside of the church.

*praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47 NKJV)*

**Baptism** – One segment of people insist that baptism is not essential to salvation, and that a person may enjoy eternal life who has never been baptized ... on the opposite extreme we see many forms of baptism taught. Some contend that chosen human administrators can impart a magical power to water such that it removes sins. The exponents of this theory will subject innocent babies, who are unaware of the proceeding’s significance, to “a baptism”. Others contend for Holy Spirit baptism, the baptism of fire, and for a variety of modes, such as sprinkling, or pouring, in addition to emersion. Here again, we find the Truth between all of these extremes. The Apostle Peter states;

*“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...” (1 Peter 3:21 KJV)*

Jesus placed “baptism” between every accountable person, and salvation when He declared;

*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16 KJV)*

In other scriptures additional conditions of salvation may be found, but these two passages make it impossible to eliminate baptism as a condition. The Bible also declares that there is “*One Lord, one faith, one baptism*”, (Ephesians 4:5 KJV).

The space required to perform a Biblical analysis of each mode of baptism taught by men, and eliminate them by truth far exceeds what is left in this article ... and, such an exercise would be no more conclusive than to determine what constitutes the one baptism taught in the Bible.

In Acts 8:36, the Eunuch from Ethiopia asked Philip, the evangelist;

*“... See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36 KJV)*

At the house of Cornelius, the Apostle Peter asked:

*“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized,” (Acts 10:47 KJV)*

The saved, whom the Lord adds to the church (Acts 2:47), have been “cleansed with the washing of water by the Word” (Ephesians 3:26).

The New Testament has fixed the *mode* of the “one baptism”, with “we are buried with Him through baptism” (Romans 6:4 NKJV); “buried with Him in baptism” (Colossians 2:12 NKJV); and “they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.” (Acts 8:38)

When we read Acts 2:38, and understand that baptism is for the remission of sins, we have the complete picture of the “one baptism”. It is a burial in water of a believing, penitent person, for the remission of sins.

We must constantly guard against any departure from the truth to any extreme position of error. This warning from the Old Testament should serve to help us maintain our caution;

*“Therefore you shall be careful to do as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. (Deuteronomy 5:32 NKJV)*

... **Bob**

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

***For Spiritual Responsiveness*** – Georgia DeLorenzo ... Sondra DeLorenzo

***For Physical Healing*** – Sue DeGasperis ... Scott DeGasperis ... Mary Broadwell ... Larry Smith (Sharon Ferencze’s brother)

***For Wisdom and Good Judgment*** – The Leaders of our nation ... the leaders of our congregation

***For God’s Care and Good Providence*** – Our young people here at Washington ... our members who are traveling ... the men and women in military service ... our congregation.

## ***EVENTS AND NOTES***

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

- ⤴ THE NEXT THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL BE AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>, AT 11:00AM.
- ⤴ OUR NEXT PRAYER GATHERING WILL BE SATURDAY, AUGUST 24<sup>TH</sup>, STARTING AT 5PM, AT THE HOME OF THE JEFFRIES.
- ⤴ THE 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>.