

## Washington church of Christ

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# The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 31

**September 15, 2013**

## Order of Services

**Sunday, September 15, 2013**

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Cup	Scott Thomas
Prayer for the Collection	Ralph Ruggiero
Assisting at the Table	Glenn Montgomery
Scripture Reading	Stan Thompson
Morning Closing Prayer	Tom Dolan
Evening Opening Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Announcements	Lee Redd

## 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

### 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)*

...Bob

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

***For Spiritual Responsiveness*** – Georgia DeLorenzo ... Sondra DeLorenzo ... all of our wayward members

***For Physical Healing*** – John Baxter ... Andrew Montgomery ... Mary Broadwell ... Larry Smith (Sharon Ferencze's brother) ... Rufus Evans (Bob's Uncle) ... Antoinette Salerno (Annie's mother)

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

***For God's Care and Good Providence*** – Our young people away at college ... 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 SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, AT 11:00AM.
- ✦ THE PICNIC IN THE PARK SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
- ✦ THERE WILL BE A FAREWELL POTLUCK FOR LEE AND TERRY REDD AFTER THE MORNING SERVICES ON SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup> AT THE WARREN GLEN PAVILION. PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.
- ✦ OUR NEXT PRAYER GATHERING WILL BE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>. PLEASE SEE BOB WYDRO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST THIS GATHERING IN YOUR HOME.
- ✦ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOE WORKS OF THE FAIR LAWN CONGREGATION IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup>.