

## Washington church of Christ

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

### Order of Services Sunday, October 13, 2013

Song Leader	Bob James
Prayer	Dan Wydro
Preaching	Joe Works
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bob Wydro
Prayer for the Cup	Arnold Thompson
Prayer for the Collection	Derald Sanchez
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Scripture Reading	Matt Grimaldi
Morning Closing Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Evening Opening Prayer	Pete Ferencze
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
Thursday Morning Bible Study	11:00 am

# The Washington Messenger

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**October 13, 2013**

### *"Where Art Thou?"*

Through the years educators have recognized the value of questions in the process of teaching. A good teacher understands the value of asking the right question at the proper time.

Jesus, the Master Teacher, used questions extensively in His personal ministry. We can also read in the Old Testament where many questions were used to effectively impress upon someone a profound lesson or a truth.

The question for today is the first ever asked by God to man, in so far as we have record in the Bible. Adam and Eve had transgressed the commandment of God, and had eaten of the tree of knowledge, from which they had been restricted. When God approached, they foolishly attempted to hide themselves among the trees of the garden of Eden. In Genesis 3:9 we read;

*Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"* (Genesis 3:9 NKJV)

We are not to conclude from the question that Adam had succeeded in his effort to hide from God. Far too many scriptures prove that God knows and sees all, and that neither Adam nor any other being can elude His sight at any time.

*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.* (Proverbs 15:3 NKJV)

Again...

*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.* (Psalms 139:7-8 NKJV)

Another witness...

*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* (Hebrews 4:13 NKJV)

These scriptures should make it fairly obvious that the question was to make Adam realize where his actions had placed him with respect to God, and to make him see the magnitude of his sin.

Since this question was asked by God, who is our, as well as Adam's, creator, we might do well to allow it to call our position in relation to God's will into question. It is certain that nothing will be lost by checking our spiritual status. If it is unfavorable, the scriptures we have already cited teach us that God too knows our position relative to His will ...

*For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.* (1 John 3:20 NKJV)

In His Sermon on the Mount Jesus warns;

*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:13-14 KJV)*

Jesus here compares the way of life to an entrance through a gate. The words “*straight*” and “*strait*” have very different meanings. The former means “*not crooked*”, while the latter means “*pent up, narrow, difficult to be entered.*” This is the word used here, and it means that the way to heaven is “*pent up, narrow*”, and not obviously entered. The way to death is open, broad, and thronged.

Note the contrast presented by our Lord ... the way of Life is narrow. It is not “the great highway” that people tread. Few go there. Here and there one may be seen traveling in solitude and singularity.

The way to death, on the other hand, is broad. Multitudes are in it. It is the great highway in which people go. They fall into it easily and without effort, and remain in it without thought. If they wish to leave that and enter through the narrow gate, it would require effort and thought.

Jesus Christ taught that “*diligence*” is needed to enter life.

*Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. (Luke 13:24 KJV)*

Have you given thought to the question of your position with God? Do you know which gate you have entered, and down which road you are currently traveling?

The extreme difference in the rewards of those traveling these two *ways* makes it imperative that each person ask themselves the question, “Where am I?”

Are you in the family of God?

From God’s perspective there are only main divisions ...

*In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10 NKJV)*

When a person hears the gospel of Christ (Romans 10:17) ... believes it (Romans 10:10) ... repents of their sins (Acts 17:30) ... and is baptized in water (Acts 8:36; 10:48), for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), this regeneration takes place and he enters the Kingdom of God and becomes a member of God’s Family.

One last consideration of the theme question ... Jesus said in Mathew 12:30;

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

Based on this statement of our Lord, where are you?

Are you in the minority who are actively for the Lord? If not, then you are against Him, either actively or passively.

Many who have complied with the conditions of entrance into the family of God are not *actively* in His service, and as a consequence are classified here by Jesus as being His enemies.

Others through rebellion against His will, or by ungodly living, are also aligned against Him.

*For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: (Philippians 3:18 NKJV)*

Are you with, or against Christ today?

Check to be sure, and make your position a safe one.

We, as individuals, are responsible for our spiritual locations relative to God!

...Bob

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

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

***For Physical Healing*** – John Baxter ... Larry Smith (Sharon Ferencze’s brother) ... Frank and Antoinette Salerno (Annie’s parents) ... Mary Celentano’s sister

***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 ...

- ▲ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOE WORKS OF THE FAIR LAWN CONGREGATION CONCLUDES TODAY. IT’S BEEN A GOOD WEEKEND.
- ▲ THERE WILL BE A POTLUCK LUNCH AT THE WASHINGTON FIRE HOUSE ON BELVIDERE AVE AFTER SERVICES TODAY.
- ▲ WE WILL HAVE OUR THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:00AM.
- ▲ THE NEXT BIBLE SCHOOL TERM STARTS ON OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>. OUR PLAN IS TO START A STUDY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.
- ▲ THE NEXT MEN’S BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, AT 7:30PM