

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 35

October 27, 2013

Order of Services Sunday, October 27, 2013

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Scott Thomas
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Tom Dolan
Prayer for the Cup	Cameron Wydro
Prayer for the Collection	Pete Ferencze
Assisting at the Table	Stan Thompson
Scripture Reading	Patrick Wydro
Morning Closing Prayer	Daniel Wydro
Evening Opening Prayer	Arnold Thompson
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

Happiness...

I believe that it can be truthfully stated that happiness is desired of more people desire than anything else, yet few of these people are happy.

Why is this? Is it possible for man to be happy on this earth? Are God's provisions adequate for man to find happiness and contentment here?

If affirmative answers are given to these questions, where is the hindrance to man's finding the way to happiness?

This may be one of the few situations where the reason is not human indifference, because much of the restlessness and instability of our times can be attributed to an unsatisfied search for contentment and peace of mind.

The founding fathers of this nation declared that "the inalienable rights of a man are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" ... and, it seems the never ceasing search which they recognized as a basic component of humanity has intensified in this age of anxiety and crisis.

Many, under the delusion that happiness can be found in entertainment, have crowded the theaters, ball parks, night clubs, and other places of amusement ... while others think that happiness can be found in the possession of material wealth. Yet it is obvious that few people find true happiness or real contentment.

The many unsuccessful efforts of man may cause one to ask, "What is the way to happiness, and where is real contentment to be found?"

To have a fruitful discussion of this question we first need to clearly distinguish the difference between pleasure and happiness. A misunderstanding here is demonstrated by the many who look for happiness in places of amusement. Pleasure is a fleeting experience, while happiness is continuing state.

Each of us might remember some event or activity we enjoyed in days gone by, that would not bring us pleasure at this point in our lives.

In contrast, the factors attributable to the times when we were truly happy should still produce that condition for us today.

Many make happiness the reason rather than the result of an activity or action.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon admits his folly in seeking happiness in pleasure (Ecclesiastes 2:3); in wisdom (Ecclesiastes 1:17, 18); in literature (Ecclesiastes 12:12) and in riches (Ecclesiastes 2:4-9) ... he concluded that it was all vanity (Ecclesiastes 2:11). Those who follow this course of seeking happiness by human methods will likewise fail to find it. But if we follow Solomon's conclusion ...

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (Ecclesiastes 12:13 NKJV)

... happiness will follow in this life, and in the life that is to come.

God made us, and it is most logical to conclude that the creature is most happy and contented when he is doing what his Creator requires of him.

Solomon reminds us;

He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he. (Proverbs 16:20 NKJV)

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law. (Proverbs 29:18 NKJV)

Our world filled with trouble and unhappiness is the exorbitant price we are paying for disregarding God's way to true happiness.

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. (Isaiah 26:3 NKJV)

Many scoff at this pattern for happiness and regard God and His Word as undesirable restraints to joy and contentment. In this way, some young people are led into immorality because they disregard God's Word.

They feel that they are missing out on something, so they follow the masses, and conclude that their accountability to God for such actions hampers their pleasure.

History is full of unhappy consequences suffered by those who have tried to totally dismissed God from their knowledge. Their lessons should be learned and heeded by anyone who would think that happiness can be attained separate and apart from God.

It is said that a noted infidel, Robert Owen, once stated in a debate, "We infidels have an advantage over you Christians, in that we have no fear of death." His opponent countered with, "You may have no fear of death, but neither do you have the hope of eternal life." This is a source of the Christian's happiness ... we rejoice in hope (Romans 12:12), because we believe in God, who has promised us eternal life. (Titus 1:2)

Some employ money as a substitute for God's plan for happiness, and surmise that it will satisfy their longings and needs. God warns all who would consider this alternative;

He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver; Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity. (Ecclesiastes 5:10 NKJV)

Money cannot buy, nor produce, happiness when it is sought as the way to contentment ...

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, in their eagerness to get rich, have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with much pain. (1 Timothy 6:10 ISV)

The familiar story of Alexander the Great portrays the fact that happiness is also not found in worldly acclaim or accomplishments. It is said that he conquered the known

world in his time, including the ruling Persian Empire, while he was a young man of some 30 years old. Yet, he is said to have sat down in the Arabian Desert sand and weep because there were no more conquests for his armies. He died at the age of 33 because he could not conquer himself ... he had not found happiness and contentment.

There are many other examples of sad human experiences when things such as position, fame, pleasure, and popularity are employed by men in their quest for happiness.

These only serve to emphasize that true peace, happiness, and contentment are found when we turn to God in complete trust and obedience.

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 ...

- ⤴ THE NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, AT 4PM.
- ⤴ THERE WILL BE A LADIES BIBLE CLASS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, AT 4PM AS WELL.
- ⤴ OUR NEXT THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL BE ON NOVEMBER 7TH, AT 11:00AM.
- ⤴ THE NEXT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, AT 7:30PM
- ⤴ THE PISCATAWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST WILL HOST A FALL BIBLE SERIES ON NOV. 15 -17, 2013 WITH BUDDY PAYNE FROM FLORIDA COLLAGE. A FLYER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD WITH TOPICS AND TIMES.