

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

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Order of Services Sunday November 17, 2013

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

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

Foolish Wisdom...

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good. (Psalms 14:1 NKJV)

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, and have done abominable iniquity; There is none who does good. (Psalms 53:1 NKJV)

These two verses are perhaps among the best-known verses in the Bible. Psalms 14 and 53 seem to be separate versions of the same meditation. The thought moves from the denial of God (Psalm 14:1) to the depravity of man (Psalm 14:2-3), the consequences of sin (Psalm 14:4-6), and the longing for salvation (Psalm 14:7).

The verses identify the fool and the consequences of his foolishness: "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' The "fool" is the man who has no discernment of things ethical and spiritual. The basis of his atheist position is irrelevant. In Psalm 74:22 we read that the "*foolish man*" reproaches God daily. This represents a man who believes just enough to be angry. Since "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*" (Proverbs 9:10) the fool, in denying God, denies wisdom itself.

The theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking, in his new book titled, *The Grand Design*, states that new theories show that a creator is "not necessary". In his book he says, "Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to light the blue touch paper and set the universe going."

Mr. Hawking's denial of God is not new. He is one of an untold number of souls who have through time determinedly failed to acknowledge the sovereign existence of God. This denial of God is based on several points. Apart from a general unbelief due to willful sin, atheism found its entry into the modern age through the Enlightenment. With the discovery of the so-called laws of nature, it became "foolish" to think that the God of creation would violate His own created order, which seemed to move in perfection. Would the God who made both natural law and moral law Himself become a "lawbreaker"?

Once this scientific method was accepted, the power of reason to control all reality was applied, little by little, to the whole of human life ... the result was that to know the truth, we no longer needed divine revelation or the authority of the church ... we only needed ourselves. Through this deviant thinking man has shifted from humility before God to "humility" before humankind. Thus we came to be in awe of ourselves. Through our own reasoning we would discover the laws behind the

apparent chaos of human life. Thomas Nelson in his Preachers Commentary says, "For Darwin, evolution unlocked nature. For Freud, our biological drives and the unconscious unlocked the human psyche."

The surrender of the knowledge of God or even the formal belief in God opens the door to all kinds of human corruption. To deny God means, ultimately, to deny any transcendent basis for morality. With order and accountability lost, all the darkness of the human spirit is unleashed. The irony of the modern era is that the period of the greatest technical advance has been also the period of the greatest mass destruction. The judgments offered in Psalm 14:1 as a consequence of saying "There is no God" are demonstrated daily in our own history!

As man turns from God and His ways, there is a false sense of freedom ... where he imagines liberation there is only bondage. Yet, man's denial of God in no way affects His reality.

Now, speaking more pointedly to us as Christians ... at this point in reading this article we may have firmly placed ourselves among those who acknowledge and believe in God. But, is our personal conclusion based only on the relative comparison of our beliefs to the stated beliefs of others?

In 2 Timothy 2, Paul speaks to the Christian's fidelity to the Lord...

If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself. (2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV)

The word translated "faithless" (2Timothy 2:13) is used in the New Testament to mean both "not believing" and "betraying a trust." The "old" King James Version translates to the former: "*If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful.*" The New King James, as well as other translations sees this, rather, as a matter of fidelity in living ... "*if we are faithless.*"

This seems a better fit for our times in that we are a culture in which instant gratification reigns supreme, and the living out of commitments has come on hard times.

As Christians we realize that our denial of God can take less overt forms than those of men like Mr. Hawking. There needs to be a growing awareness among us that our lifestyles may be a form of denial of Christ.

A life that is not expressing genuine love and care for spouse, children, and friends is a denial of the Jesus who commands us to love one another. And, a lifestyle of over indulgence in the midst of a hungry world is a denial of the Jesus who calls us to feed the hungry and care for the poor. Self-serving attacks to unity among believers are also a denial of Him who calls us to be servants to one another? Before we conclude too quickly that we would never deny Him, we might well ponder the many forms denial can take.

The awesome consequence of denial and infidelity is His denial of us...

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven. (Matthew 10:32-33 NIV)

Contrastingly, the reward of our faithfulness is His safekeeping of our souls...

That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. (2 Timothy 1:12 NIV)

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, DECEMBER 1ST, AT 4PM.
- ⚡ THE NEXT LADIES BIBLE STUDY WILL BE ON DECEMBER 1ST AS WELL.
- ⚡ THE NEXT BIBLE CLASS TERM WILL BEGIN ON DECEMBER 1ST. WE WILL PLAN TO CONTINUE OUR STUDY OF THE KINGS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.
- ⚡ OUR NEXT THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL BE ON DECEMBER 5TH AT 11:00AM.