

# Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

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

# The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 2

**January 12, 2014**

## Order of Services Sunday January 12, 2014

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Pete Ferencze
Preaching	Stan Thompson
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Ralph Ruggiero
Prayer for the Cup	Derald Sanchez
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Celentano
Assisting at the Table	Patrick Wydro
Scripture Reading	Bob James
Morning Closing Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Evening Opening Prayer	Bob Wydro
Announcements	Scott Thomas

## 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

### Something to Think About...

There are many passages in the Bible that reinforce my faith in God, and reassure the love that He has us as His children. And, of late the words of the Hebrew writer have been at the top of that list.

*By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. (Hebrews 11:5 ESV)*

Whenever I read this passage, I don't come away with the expectation that God will bless me such that I, like Enoch, would not experience physical death. I believe that the death of a Christian in its own way accomplishes God's will in that it preaches to the living. The calm resignation ... the peace ... the triumph of the dying believer, is demonstration of the virtues of a righteous life, and a constant admonition to a thoughtless and wicked world.

But rather I am reminded of the extent that God can bless those in whom He finds pleasure. Enoch is described as having pleased God. The manner by which he pleased God was that of faith. While how exactly it was expressed is not said, his "walk with God" must have been one of sensitivity to the mind of God and obedience to His will. In the thinking of the Hebrew writer, no one is going to obey God unless that person believes God knows what He is talking about ...

*And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. (Hebrews 11:6 ESV)*

Additionally, because God reveals through His Word His plan for every person, anyone who is not sensitive to His will and who does not obey it through faith is going to leave that will of God unfulfilled. God takes no pleasure in such disregard.

Without faith in a God who created the world with order ... without faith in a God who provides for the children that He loves ... without faith in a God who loves justice and hates lawlessness ... without faith in a God who makes a way, the only way, into the sanctuary of His presence ... it is impossible to please such a God. This is the only true and living God, and to believe anything else or to think we can do these things without His aid is to deny the very character of God and try to play His role ourselves. That is the height of arrogance. No, without faith it is impossible to please God.

The details concerning Enoch are few, and are recorded in a genealogy found in Genesis 5. Yet the facts are sufficiently clear. All the other people mentioned in the

genealogy are described by the same refrain, “and then he died.” But, of Enoch it is said...

*And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him. (Genesis 5:24 NKJV)*

When the Hebrew writer says that Enoch was *taken* from this life, he actually repeats the conclusion of this Genesis account. The conclusion rests on the clause “*Enoch walked with God*”. What does the phrase walk with God mean? It indicates a state of friendship between God and man, and of course implies that a person lives a spiritual life in which his conduct is pleasing to God. This phrase is also said of Noah...

*This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. (Genesis 6:9 NKJV)*

Enoch lived a normal life of raising sons and daughters, but his entire life was characterized by his love for God ... and, for this reason God took him and spared him from what we know as physical death.

For me, this is an encouragement to faithfulness. It shows that God regards his friends ... that their fidelity and holy living please him. And, through this pleasure He blesses them boundlessly.

And, while through faith in God I believe that if He desired, He could cause anyone, and everyone, pleasing Him to go the way of Enoch ... I also believe that His love and power are now seen in His enabling us to overcome the dread of death, and His supporting us through the pains and sorrows that most often accompany it. The context of Paul’s words to the Corinthian Christians differs somewhat from that of our article this morning ... however, there is still a powerful application that can be made...

*Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJV)*

Our love of God and Faith in Him must come from our heart, and this alone differentiates it from all else. Men act in other matters under the influence of the senses ... but, faith in God demands that those seeking to please Him act under the influence of higher and nobler considerations, and that they are influenced not solely by a reference to what is passing before their eyes, but to the things which are not seen.

*For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ... Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:1, 5-7 NKJV)*

So then, when we read of Enoch, we can be reminded of God’s power, His love, and His blessings on those who please Him. And while we don’t have an expectation of ending our term here on earth as did Enoch, we can, while we are here, live with the same goal as Abraham...

*By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ... for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Hebrews 11:8, 10 NKJV)*

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

***For Spiritual Responsiveness*** – All of our wayward members

***For Physical Healing*** – Matt Grimaldi ... John Baxter ... Britta Commans ... Larry Smith ... Frank Salerno ... Mary Celentano’s father ... Kathleen Wydro’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 RESCHEDULED MEN’S BUSINESS MEETING IS TODAY STARTING AT 4PM.
- ▲ ADDITIONALLY, THE LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY AS WELL ... STARTING AT 4PM.
- ▲ ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JAN 18<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup>, JOHN KILGORE WILL PRESENT 5 LESSONS ABOUT WORSHIP IN SONG AT THE UPPER WEST MANHATTAN CONGREGATION. A FLYER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.