

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

The Washington Messenger

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January 19, 2014

Order of Services Sunday January 19, 2014

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Stan Thompson
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Derald Sanchez
Prayer for the Cup	Glenn Montgomery
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Bob Degrado
Scripture Reading	Bob James
Morning Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
Evening Opening Prayer	Bill Duryea
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

The Glory of God...

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. (Psalms 19:1-3 NKJV)

In this beautiful Nineteenth Psalm, the shepherd boy who rose to the throne of Israel was very conscious of the presence of God in all His creations. When we read David's words, we can't help but notice that many traits of superiority, as recognized by man, are manifested in the heavens which "declare the glory of God", and the firmament which "shows His handiwork". The vastness of the universe displays the power of the Creator, by whose word the heavens were framed. (Hebrews 11:3). The perfect order in creation, and the perfection of God's work, demonstrates the infinite wisdom of God. (Psalm 104:24)

This power and wisdom which were required in creation make us aware of the goodness of God. Man is the only part of God's creation which is endowed with the ability to obey, or to disobey, the will of God. All inanimate creation operates by the law of necessity, so that the apple tree cannot decide to yield pears ... this consistency within itself also declares the Glory of God. Man, the free moral agent, dishonors God through disobedience. With this infinite power and wisdom, which is constantly before our eyes, we must realize that God could destroy His creation instantly, and at any moment. His forbearance in withholding His destruction when we willingly disobey Him, display the goodness of God to man.

But power, intelligence, and goodness do not completely picture the glory of God, as seen in His universe. These three qualities would not enable us to place complete trust in God. A person who is good may become vindictive. The wisdom of the wise can diminish. Power can be lost. But the immutable laws of the universe should reinforce our faith in God, who declared, "I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6). James reminds us ...

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1:17 NIV)

As we look again at the words of David we see the unchanging nature of God demonstrated in every component of creation ... every twenty four hours we have periods of day and night, as the Psalmist noted in Psalms 19:1-3. This unvarying order which has prevailed since creation testifies to the unchanging nature of God. More than 4000 years ago God made a covenant with Noah, in which He promised ...

"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8:22 NIV)

Every calendar year since that promise we have had "seedtime and harvest" and summer and winter upon the earth. And despite the predictions of those who have misread Matthew 24:32, that before the end of time the leaves of the fig tree will be the only sign of changing seasons, we know that cold and heat shall continue, as it has for 4000 years since that promise, in as much as the "unchanging God" has decreed that it be so!

The observations by man of God's unchanging patterns in His creation have made possible all of the great advances in the field of science. The fixed position of the star which God ordained, (Psalms 8:3), is an invaluable aid to navigation for our ships and airliners. The sun and the moon are so regular in their courses that an eclipse can be predicted and timed to the minute. Scientists often differ in their explanations of the law of gravity, yet the unchanging quality of this law enable these scientists to make compensation for the force of gravity in their space project computations. The constancy in the physical realm has been the major factor in successful exploration of earth and space.

Since science is said to be "the accumulation of the established facts concerning the laws of the natural realm", the scientist can do no more than discover, through their research, and apply for the benefit for humanity, that which God has placed in His universe.

If these laws were changing constantly finite man could never comprehend them, except by accident, and then they could not be utilized as they are today. The fact that these laws are absolute, and applicable to mankind, is another evidence of the glory of God in creation.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. (Psalms 19:7 NIV)

Here David refocuses our attention from creation to that which God has done solely for the benefit of man.

Man is the only part of creation to which God gave a soul, (Genesis 2:7), and we should be impressed with the fact that the infinite God, who has laws to direct all His creation, has given to man a Law to direct him in spiritual matters.

David quite obviously saw a relation between these two great works of God. He points out that the same God who is the Creator is also the revealer. But he also declares that the Law of the Lord will outlast the creation (Psalm 102:25-27) and ...

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. (Psalms 119:89 NKJV)

Jesus also reminds all who live under His Testament...

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Matthew 24:35 NKJV)

The four attributes of God which are present in creation, which enable us to place implicit trust in Him, are also evident in His revelation. There can be seen the power, wisdom, goodness, and unchangeableness of God as He imparts to man, who cannot

'walk to direct his own steps", (Jeremiah 10:23) spiritual guidance for a safe journey from earth, "the footstool of God", to heaven, "His throne" (Isaiah 66:1).

The Lord's will, we will discuss the evidence of these attributes in His revelation in next week's article.

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Jordan Thomas - 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.

The Evangelist and Teachers We Help Support – Jon Focht – Tim Bunting – Scott Smelser – Dan Wydro

EVENTS AND NOTES

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

- ⤴ THE NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2ND, STARTING AT 4PM.
- ⤴ ADDITIONALLY, THE LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 2ND AS WELL ... STARTING AT 4:45PM.