

## Washington church of Christ

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# The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 17

**May 11, 2014**

## Order of Services Sunday May 11, 2014

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Scott Thomas
Preaching	Jon Focht
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Cup	Arnold Thompson
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Wydro
Assisting at the Table	Bob Celentano Jr
Scripture Reading	Matt Grimaldi
Morning Closing Prayer	David Osinski
Evening Opening Prayer	Bill Duryea
Announcements	Stan Thompson

## 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

## Confusion and Transgression

*By Sewell Hall*

Have you ever heard anyone say, as an explanation for some sinful action, "I became so confused I don't know what is right anymore"? As a rule, the person who says such a thing is one who has had clear convictions but has acted, or is about to act, contrary to them.

This must be what the Holy Spirit was saying about Eve in 1 Timothy 2:14:

*And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. (1 Timothy 2:14 NKJV)*

To say that she was deceived is not to say that she was ignorant. She quoted perfectly what God had said:

*And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "* (Genesis 3:2-3 NKJV)

She was deceived when she thought there could be any valid reason for disobeying God.

We cannot know how long Adam and Eve avoided the forbidden tree. With so many other trees from which to eat, there was no need to eat of it. There is no evidence of confusion regarding the right and wrong of eating or the wisdom of abstaining. They were happy ignoring it.

But along came Satan to draw Eve's attention to the tree she had been avoiding. He drew her attention to the beauty of the fruit and somehow convinced her, perhaps by eating of it himself, that it was good for food. If he did eat of it, the fact that he did not die surely gave support to his contention that she would not die. One can see the confusion mounting. The arguments she had considered conclusive against eating were rapidly being matched by arguments for doing so. Which arguments were valid? Both seemed to be.

If God had spoken again, she might have been reminded once more of the strong reasons for rejecting the fruit. But as it was, the voice of God grew weaker in her memory as the desirability of the fruit was magnified by Satan's glib lies. All that was needed to tip the balance was the final suggestion of an

apparent virtue in eating – the thought that she would become like God. Never mind the legalistic prohibition; surely one could not be blamed for wanting to be like God.

*“She took of the fruit and ate”* (Genesis 3:6).

Tragic words! Tragic consequences! Consequences reaching down through countless generations even to us!

The great mistake of Eve was in allowing herself even to begin thinking about disobedience. This was the mistake of Achan when he first saw the Babylonian garment (Judges 7:21), of David when he first saw his beautiful neighbor bathing (2 Samuel 11:2) and of Judas when he first thought of betraying Jesus. It is the same mistake each of us makes – men and women alike – whenever we sin.

The Bible says as much:

*But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.* (James 1:14-15 NKJV)

There is ample defense available. If we are wise enough to meditate on God’s laws in such circumstances (Psalm 119:11), and to ask Him for deliverance (Matthew 6:13), He will, with the temptation, *“also make a way of escape”* (1 Corinthians 10:13).

But all too often, in the name of open-mindedness and objectivity, we feel we are obligated to look at the other side, to consider the arguments in favor of sin. We may even be so foolish as to parrot the existential line: “I must get away to myself and sort things out.” If this means getting away for Bible study, meditation and prayer, fine! But this is seldom what it means. As a rule, what it means is: “I want to be left alone to rationalize my way through the sin that entices me without having to reason with those who would logically or scripturally expose my folly.”

Such conflict between conscience and passion, between logic and emotion, between authority and anarchy, between flesh and spirit will indeed produce confusion – confusion bordering on insanity. But it is a confusion for which we are responsible. It is the peculiar malady of “those who perish because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved” and who “did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness” (2 Thessalonians 2:10, 12). It is never surprising when such a person, “being deceived”, falls into transgression.

In Jesus’ day, “there was a division among the people because of Him” (John 7:43). They were confused by the contradictions between His claims and the accusations of their rulers. Jesus stated clearly who would be confused:

*If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.* (John 7:17 NKJV)

Wanting to do God’s Will, will save us from the confusion, deception and transgression into which our mother fell.

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

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

***For Physical Healing*** – Georgia DeLorenzo - Brian Jeffries ... Abigail Jeffries ... Jordan Thomas ... Barbara Rhinehart (Bill Duryea's sister) ... Kathleen Wydro's Mom ... Everett Guyton

***For Wisdom and Good Judgment*** – The Leaders of our congregation ... the leaders of our nation

***For God's Care and Good Providence*** – Bertie Baxter ... 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 AND LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>..
- ⤴ MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE EVANGELISTS THAT WE ASSIST ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ⤴ CHECK OUT SCOTT SMELSER’S WEBSITE “[3MINUTEBIBLESTUDY.COM](http://3MINUTEBIBLESTUDY.COM)”.