

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 18

May 18, 2014

Order of Services Sunday May 18, 2014

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Bill Duryea
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bob Wydro
Prayer for the Cup	Ralph Ruggiero
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Celentano
Assisting at the Table	Matt Grimaldi
Scripture Reading	Daniel Wydro
Morning Closing Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Evening Opening Prayer	Pete Ferencze
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

Love Keeps On Giving...

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ... Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (Romans 13:8, 10 NKJV)

Various marketing efforts have used the slogan, "The gift that keeps on giving." Typically the objective is to associate their products, in the mind of the consumers, as one that will provide ongoing value in the months and years to come. This slogan seems to apply to Paul's words in Romans 13:8.

Verse 8 has been rendered different ways in the various translations of the New Testament. The vast majority of them render the first part of the verse as generally saying "Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another..." Most commentators though, explain the verse in line with translations similar to those of the NIV...

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another ...
... and the GOD'S WORD Translation...

Pay your debts as they come due. However, one debt you can never finish paying is the debt of love that you owe each other.

... and the N.E.B...

"Do not keep on owing anyone anything except to love one another..."

The wise man Solomon also speaks to the issue of paying our debts ...

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you. (Proverbs 3:27-28 NKJV)

Three thoughts are clearly implied here ...

First, this is a condemnation of the practice of some, who are ever ready to borrow but very slow to repay. The Psalmist spoke of this trait...

The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives. (Psalms 37:21 NKJV)

Secondly, Paul is saying that among all the debts a person may have incurred, there is one that can never be repaid in full, namely, the debt of love. Here, the context seems to indicate that Paul is not thinking primarily of the debt we owe to God, but of the debt we owe to our fellowmen.

And third, it is a love “for one another.” But this “one another,” does not, in this instance, merely mean fellow-Christians only. These, to be sure, are included. We might even say that they are included in a special way...

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:10 NIV)

However, by adding “for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law”, it is made clear that all those with whom the Christian comes into contact are included. In fact, in a sense no one is excluded from this all-embracing love.

Notice how Paul closes this thought in verse 10 ...

Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. (Romans 13:10 NIV)

The verse begins and ends with the word love. Paul seems to imply that if the fulfillment of the law does no harm to the neighbor but benefits him, and if love ... and only love ... does exactly that, then the fulfillment of the law must be love.

Often the two main questions raised related to loving our neighbor have to do with defining what is love and determining who is our neighbor.

The first is answered by the complete biblical statement—we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (Romans 13:9). This means that minimally we are to have the same concern for the preservation, protection, and respect of our neighbors as we have for ourselves. A normal, healthy person loves himself enough to be concerned about his own safety, security, and position in life. Normal love for our neighbor has at least the same concerns.

The second question was answered once and for all by the Lord in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37). My neighbor is any man in the sphere of my influence whose needs I am in a position to meet or whose sufferings I am in a position to alleviate. To love him is to take action and do something on the understanding that God loved me first and through Christ did something about my sins.

The love we should continually give is motivated by our love for God. This alone makes it sufficiently powerful to cause us to remove all obstacles and to love our neighbor even though that neighbor is perhaps not a pleasant person. It is a love that “*is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, always protects and always hopes*” (1 Corinthians 13:5, 7). Such a love has its origin in God, for “*God is love*” (1 John 4:8).

So then, love is the only debt never to be completely satisfied, for even though it is always being paid, it should always to be looked upon as being owed.

Christians ought to love one another in this fashion ... we should be continually serving one another in love, praying for each other, bearing one another's burdens, forbearing each other, and doing “good” in things temporal and spiritual that are within our power ... this obligation always remains.

Love is a debt we owe to every man ... as humans, being all made of one blood, and in the image of God. This encompasses not only those that are of the same family, live in the same neighborhood, and belong to the same nation, but all individuals of mankind, including our enemies ... all are to be the object of our love ...

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8 NIV)

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Georgia DeLorenzo ... 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 ...

- ⤴ WE ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING A BOOTH AT THE WARREN COUNTY FARMERS FAIR. ANYONE WILLING TO HELP MAN THE BOOTH SHOULD SEE TOM DOLAN.
- ⤴ WE HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT A REVISION OF OUR CURRENT SCHEDULE OF SERVICES IS BEING DISCUSSED. WE ARE ASKING ALL MEMBERS CONVEY YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS PROPOSAL TO RALPH RUGGIERO.
- ⤴ THE NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING AND LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, JUNE 1ST.
- ⤴ MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE EVANGELISTS THAT WE ASSIST ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ⤴ CHECK OUT SCOTT SMELSER'S WEBSITE “3MINUTEBIBLESTUDY.COM”.