

# Washington church of Christ

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# The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 20

June 1, 2014

## Order of Services Sunday June 1, 2014

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Pete Ferencze
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Arnold Thompson
Prayer for the Cup	Bob Celentano
Prayer for the Collection	Ralph Ruggiero
Assisting at the Table	Glenn Montgomery
Scripture Reading	Bob Celentano Jr.
Morning Closing Prayer	Tom Dolan
Evening Opening Prayer	Scott Thomas
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

## Frustrating God's Grace...

With all that occurs within a "normal" day of our lives, it is not uncommon to experience frustration. We may become frustrated by other people, or with "things" and "objects". At times we may become frustrated with situations and conditions ... or even with ourselves. And, it is probably just as common an occurrence for us to be the source of frustration for someone else.

*I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

*Galatians 2:21 KJV*

We use the word *frustrate* in this context to mean annoy, irritate, to aggravate, or to upset.

There is another meaning for the word. The Apostle Paul in Galatians 2:21 wrote:

*"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." KJV*

The word *frustrate* here in the KJV, is in other translations rendered "set aside" (NKJV), or "make void" (ASV). Its meanings in this passage include to displace, to abolish or to render null.

Also, in the context of this passage, the phrase "*the grace of God*," refers to the favor of God manifested in the plan of salvation by the gospel, and is another name for the gospel. (1Peter 5:12)

Paul's point in this text is that the justification of man is through his faith in Jesus Christ, and not through the works of the law. And that neither by his own life, through conduct which would show no influence of his salvation, nor by the observance of Jewish rites and customs, would he do anything that would void, or make ineffective the favor that God bestows upon him through the gospel.

How great is the grace of God! Of this grace Paul writes...

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ... For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:4-9)*

And again he states...

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, (2 Timothy 1:7-9)*

There may be those today who *frustrate* the grace of God through their diligent efforts to achieve salvation through their works instead of accepting God's gift through faith and obedience to His Word. And, I think that there are many more that *frustrate* God's grace simply through their failure to accept it ... or, by failing to remain faithful after accepting it.

Consider these passages that show man's condition...

*But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. (Isaiah 64:6)*

And again ...

*So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' (Luke 17:10)*

Now hear God's response for us ...

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14)*

God's desire is that all men are saved from sin. To this end He sent His Son, Jesus Christ.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

Paul adds ...

*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. (Romans 5:7-9)*

Our salvation is truly a gift from God. And when we through faith and obedience submit ourselves to God's will, we accept this gift.

However, when we seek our own method of salvation in contradiction to God's way, or just simply fail to obey God's Word, we render His power to save us ineffective, and in so doing we *frustrate* His grace!

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

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

***For Physical Healing*** – Georgia DeLorenzo ... Barbara Rhinehart (Bill Duryea's sister) ... Everett Guyton

***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 PISCATAWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST'S SPECIAL SPRING BIBLE SERIES WILL BE HOSTED ON JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2014. ANTOINE HOLLOWAY FROM RIVERDALE, MD WILL BE SPEAKING.
- ⤴ WE ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING A BOOTH AT THE WARREN COUNTY FARMERS FAIR. ANYONE WILLING TO HELP MAN THE BOOTH SHOULD SIGN UP. A FORM IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ⤴ 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 1<sup>ST</sup>.
- ⤴ CHECK OUT SCOTT SMELSER'S WEBSITE "[3MINUTEBIBLESTUDY.COM](http://3MINUTEBIBLESTUDY.COM)".