

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

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July 13, 2014

Order of Services Sunday July 13, 2014

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Cup	Daniel Wydro
Prayer for the Collection	Gennaro Ruggiero
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Morning Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
Evening Opening Prayer	Tom Dolan
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

God's Discipline ...

What really is discipline? How is it good for us as Christians? How do we react to God's disciplining of us?

The word most often translated "chastening", has wider meaning than "punishment." It also means the training of a child, a teaching, preparation for life, an art or science, or an instruction. The main emphasis is upon preparation for life. Punishment is only a small part of this preparation.

*And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "MY SON, DO NOT DESPISE THE CHASTENING OF THE LORD, NOR BE DISCOURAGED WHEN YOU ARE REBUKED BY HIM;
Hebrews 12:5 NKJV*

In scholarly circles we ask the question "What is your discipline?" We are not asking, "What is your punishment?" Rather, we want to know, "What field of study or what art are you studying?" The emphasis is upon the learning of a skill, the preparation for a given profession. Discipline is that process by which we are taught and by which we learn. It would serve us all well to think of God's discipline as His way of preparing us for our walk with Him.

The Greek word for "despise" means "to treat lightly, to disregard" or "to think unimportant." All too many Christians today have a nonchalant attitude about discipline of the spiritual life. Many are like the sports team that considers the fundamentals of their sport already learned and unimportant, only to find themselves coming apart in a tough ball game with the score mounting against them.

In similar fashion, the writer of our text passage is convinced that his readers' future steadfastness in the faith is going to depend upon the teaching of the Lord. Therefore, he is urging them not to treat lightly this training of the Lord. To disregard or look upon it as unimportant is

foolish and dangerous. In so many words the writer is saying ... "Do you not understand how critical His discipline is?"

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." (Hebrews 12:6 ESV)

God's motivation for this discipline is His love ... love for His people and love for His kingdom. Every true Christian is a child of God. He longs for a full relationship with that child as any good earthly father longs for a full and loving relationship with his child. For a child to fall or fail is agony for the Father. Out of His love He wishes to ward off such tragedy.

Not to be disciplined by a father is an indication of lack of love. It takes energy to discipline, and at times this task is fatiguing. Many fathers do not discipline because of the "cost" ... the cost of time, effort, attention and yes, money. Not to pay that cost is to say to the child, "You are not that important to me ... you are not worth it." He may use busyness as an excuse ... he may plead even the demands of the kingdom of God. The result is the same ... loveless neglect.

When fathers, and mothers, spend the necessary time and energy to discipline children with fair and consistent training, in spite of the momentary outbursts and resistance, they demonstrate their love.

Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. (Hebrews 12:11 NKJV)

However, when we as parents pay more attention to the outbursts and the cry of resistance than to the call of the future, we deny our children both a sense of belonging and the opportunity to reach a mature and strong adulthood.

If this is true for earthly parents, how much more true is it of God? Admittedly, our human discipline is sometimes less than highly motivated or effective, but God's discipline is for our ultimate good, without qualification. The result of His training is holiness and a likeness to God Himself. There is nothing more meaningful and beautiful!

Our Prayer List...

For Special Mention – Joe Works lost his mother this past week ... Meredith Jeffries will be taking a job in the Philly area and moving soon. She plans to worship with Scott Smelser.

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Georgia DeLorenzo

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 ...

- ⤴ THERE IS A MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON STARTING AT 4:00PM.
- ⤴ THE DATES FOR THE FAIR ARE SATURDAY, JULY 26TH THROUGH SATURDAY, AUGUST 2ND. OUR BOOTH WILL BE OPEN FROM 12 NOON UNTIL 10:00PM EACH DAY. THERE ARE STILL TIMES AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE WILLING AND ABLE TO HELP MAN THE BOOTH. PLEASE SEE THE SIGN-UP SHEET POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ⤴ WE HAVE A NEW **ONLINE** BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE THAT IS **NOW** AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE. **CHECK IT OUT! ... INVITE THOSE YOU KNOW TO TAKE IT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD!!!**
- ⤴ WE ARE WANTING TO START A WEEKLY "MEET-UP" BIBLE STUDY IN A LOCAL PUBLIC LOCATION. THE DAY WOULD BE EITHER TUESDAY OR THURSDAY. PLEASE SEE BOB IF YOU WOULD PARTICIPATE AND HAVE A LOCATION SUGGESTION.
- ⤴ PLEASE KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT ON THE WEBSITE. THE INFO IS USED TO COMMUNICATE NEWS AND EVENTS.