

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 27

July 20, 2014

Order of Services Sunday July 20, 2014

Song Leader	Daniel Wydro
Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bob Celentano
Prayer for the Cup	Stan Thompson
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Matt Grimaldi
Morning Closing Prayer	David Osinski
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

Preaching Christ...

The statement *"We intend to preach Christ"* is most admirable, for wherever an inspired spokesman of our Lord was found in the New Testament days he had Christ as his theme.

Paul reminded the Corinthians...

"but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, " (1 Corinthians 1:23 NKJV)

For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

(1 Corinthians 2:2 NKJV)

Later, in his Roman prison cell, he rejoiced that *"whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached."* (Philippians 1:18)

In Acts 8:5, we can read;

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. (Acts 8:5 NKJV)

And, later in this same chapter we find this said of his interaction with the Eunuch;

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. (Acts 8:35 NKJV)

These scriptures supply the only adequate and acceptable theme for those who would be preachers of God's Word today. We labor under the same commission as did Paul and Philip.

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15 NKJV)

There has been no new, or additional, revelation to proclaim today. So, knowing that they were determined to preach Christ, when we examine the content of their messages, we can learn just what was involved in doing so. This is critical, for it seems that too many are only preaching *"about Christ"*, or mentioning His name *casually*, and are failing to enjoin His teaching upon men, as these inspired men were led to do.

We have seen the Apostle Paul's statement, *"We preach Christ crucified"*. Those who preach Christ must preach His death by the cruel means of crucifixion. This is not to be regarded solely as a historic fact, but as a deed made necessary by the sins of men. In the same book in which Paul declared his determination to preach Christ, he said;

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you ... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (1 Corinthians 15:1-3 NKJV)

Paul preached Christ, the vicarious sacrifice and the manifestation of the great love of God, who *“gave His Son to die for us while we were yet sinners”*. (Romans 5:8)

Many today reject this theme of the Gospel by refusing to admit that man degenerated so low that Christ had to die for our sins. Christ is not preached unless the necessity of His atoning blood is proclaimed. It is only when we can view the Gospel against the background of human helplessness and despair that we can appreciate the vicarious death of Christ.

The content of Philip’s message helps us to further determine what it means to preach Christ ...

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. (Acts 8:12 NKJV)

What is this Kingdom about which Philip preached in proclaiming Christ? In Matthew 16:18-19, Jesus used the terms “my church” and the “kingdom of heaven” interchangeably. There can be no doubt that these terms refer to the same body of redeemed people. The kingdom consists only of those who have been *“born again”* (John 3:3-5), which simply means saved. Jesus decreed;

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16 NKJV)

And, in language which means exactly the same, He said;

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5 NKJV)

Therefore, to preach Christ we must preach His Kingdom, the church. It is folly to preach the atoning benefits of the death of Christ, and fail to proclaim that He *“purchased the church with His own blood”* (Acts 20:28), and that He *“loved the church and gave Himself for it.”* (Ephesians 5:25).

To preach the “things concerning the name of Jesus Christ” as Philip did when he preached Christ to the Samaritans, we must stress the importance of *“the name which is above every name”* (Philippians 2:9).

Since *“there is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12).

We must recognize the complete authority and sovereignty of God. All our religious activity is included in this verse;

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:17 NKJV)

When Philip joined the Eunuch in his chariot, and in response to a question, *“opened his mouth and preached unto him Jesus”*, the next words in the Divine record reveal another requirement for preaching Christ.

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:36 NKJV)

Philip preached Jesus unto him, and he asked to be baptized, indicating that to preach Christ we must clearly outline His terms of salvation ... including baptism, for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

Until remission of sins has been realized, the benefits of the death of Christ have not been received by mankind.

Have you heard, believed, and obeyed the preaching of Christ?

Our Prayer List...

For Special Mention –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 – Bill Duryea’s mother fell last week and broke her leg ... 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

EVENTS AND NOTES

- ⤴ 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.