

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

The Washington Messenger

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June 29, 2014

Order of Services Sunday June 29, 2014

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Stan Thompson
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Dan Wydro
Prayer for the Cup	Arnold Thompson
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Celentano
Assisting at the Table	Bob Celentano Jr
Morning Closing Prayer	Scott Thomas
Evening Opening Prayer	David Osinski
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

God's Commandments ...

The 119th Psalm receives much attention because it is the longest chapter in the Bible. It deals with the excellence, and the values of the Word of God ... and with man's responsibilities toward Divine Revelation. In the 176 verses there are 26 references to the commandments of God. The Psalmist uses only those adjectives that are indicative of the highest respect to describe these commandments of God. To him they are *pure, faithful, delightful, true, and righteous*.

It is tragic, but true, that all men have not this same respect for God's commandments ... not even all of those who profess to believe in Him. Many who claim a deep love for God will ignore a command which to them is not *delightful*, or alter it to suit their preconceived ideas and desires.

The many references to God's commandments in this lengthy chapter convey strong warnings against such actions by man, who will be judged by the very Word of God he seeks to alter.

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him— the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. (John 12:48)

In verse 6, we can see the abiding principle that our treatment of these commands is equivalent to our treatment of God;

Then I would not be ashamed, When I look into all Your commandments. (Psalms 119:6)

Many New Testament examples of this principle can be found ... Luke wrote of the respect for God shown by the obedient, and the disrespect shown by those who rejected the baptism of John;

And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him. (Luke 7:29-30)

When the Corinthians profaned the Lord's Supper by irreverence, Paul rebuked their disrespect for Christ;

Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. (1Corinthians 11:27)

These passages emphasize the fact that disrespect for baptism and the Lord's Supper, both commands of God, is disrespect for God and Christ ... the same holds true for any command of God.

In verses 10 and 11, the Psalmist presents the only type of obedience which will gain Divine approval for man;

With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. (Psalms 119:10-11)

God hates *lip-service*, or reluctant submission. Jesus called such worship *vain worship*;

'THESE PEOPLE DRAW NEAR TO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOR ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' " (Matthew 15:8-9)

There are no empty forms, nor purely overt acts in true Christianity. God demands that our obedience, and our worship, come from our hearts. A person *becomes the servant of righteousness* only after they have *obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine* which we know as the gospel of Christ. (Romans 6: 17, 18)

Psalms 119 verses 47 and 48 remind us that these commandments test our love and loyalty to God. Only by keeping them do we manifest these attributes.

And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes. (Psalms 119:47-48)

In the New Testament we read...

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (1John 5:3)

...and Jesus stated emphatically;

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15)

Some commands are more conclusive tests of our love for God than others. A man may love his wife and children, be truthful, and refrain from theft and murder without necessarily remembering or regarding, the commandments of God as relates to these actions. But it is the command which does not conform to our human reasoning which tests our claims of love and loyalty to God and Christ.

Baptism as a condition of salvation, not forsaking the assembling for the purpose of worshipping God, and the observance of the Lord's Supper upon the first day of the week, are examples of commands against which men rebel as they desire to walk by sight, instead of by faith ... and in so doing they nullify their claims of love and loyalty to God and Christ.

In verses 114 through 116, the Psalmist declares;

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. Depart from me, you evildoers, For I will keep the commandments of my God! Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope. (Psalms 119:114-116)

The Biblical principle that God's spiritual blessings are attached to His Commandments is inferred in this passage in that only those who keep them have any hope of eternal life. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, (Hebrews 11:1), and this supporting faith comes only by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). The Bible teaches that the just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17), and Jesus says that man shall live by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

In the final chapter of the Bible, Jesus restricts admission to the eternal city of God to this same select group of obedient followers by saying;

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. (Revelation 22:14)

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Georgia DeLorenzo ... Sharon Ferencze's Mother ... 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 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 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE. IT SHOULD BE ACTIVE NEXT WEEK ... WATCH FOR IT!
- ▲ CHECK OUT SCOTT SMELSER'S WEBSITE "3MINUTEBIBLESTUDY.COM".