

Washington church of Christ

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washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, January 6, 2013

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Antonio Ruggiero
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bob Wydro
Prayer for the Cup	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Collection	David Osinski
Assisting at the Table	Gennaro Ruggiero
Closing Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Announcements	Ralph Ruggiero

Coming Events - Home & Away...

- ⤴ Though it's still a few months away, we are planning our Spring 2013 Gospel Meeting with Tommy Peeler from FC. The dates are March 10th – 13th ... that's Sunday – Wednesday. Please plan your 2013 spring vacations and travels around that date if at all possible.
- ⤴ Additionally, our Fall 2013 Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 11th – 13th. Joe Works from the Fair Lawn, NJ congregation will be preaching.

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

The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 1

January 6, 2013

Let It Begin With You...

Our passage of scripture takes us back over 3000 years to the time of Gideon, the fifth judge of Israel. The Midianites, a fierce and ruthless people, had invaded Israel's land, and for a period of seven years had subjected Israel to extreme hardships.

In multitudes the invaders had encamped in the land, and had plundered and pillaged, and murdered until all home life, business, and agriculture was completely disrupted in Israel.

The Israelites were forced to seek refuge in the dens and caves of the mountains, and hide their meager food supply from the seeming insatiable enemy. (Judges 6:3, 11)

Why had God permitted this calamity to befall Israel, upon whom he had set His love (Deuteronomy 7:7), and whom He had chosen to be a peculiar treasure unto Him above all people (Exodus 19:5)?

We are not left to wonder why, for the reason is given in Judges 6:1:

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. (Judges 6:1 KJV)

Those who had been endowed with Divine favor had forsaken God, and erected altars to Baal, the heathen god.

This should be an obvious and powerful lesson for our modern nation. We have been blessed so abundantly that our God-given prosperity is viewed with envy by many in other parts of the world.

While our nation was progressing to its current position of economic prominence, while not perfect, a greater fear and respect for God and His Word prevailed through much of the land. Yet now, when we have so much for which to be grateful to God, we seem to have forgotten that, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34 KJV)

Our leaders, and many others, warn that we are in grave peril from enemies who would overthrow our government and enslave us. We pray that this will never happen, but if it should we can never say that a deficiency of material wealth or natural resources forced

And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down. (Judges 6:25-26 KJV)

our submission, and thus blame God for withholding His blessings. Rather, we would be forced to admit that moral and spiritual decay had crumbled our strength from within.

When we hear these warning today many are quick to say, "I know that the nation should turn to God, but I am only one in many millions, so what can I do?" This is exactly what Gideon exclaimed when the angel of the Lord identified him as the one to rescue Israel.

And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. (Judges 6:15 KJV)

But, the rescue of Israel began in the house of Joash, his poor father in Manasseh.

You see, God did not send Gideon throughout Israel to mobilize the scattered people for the expulsion of the Midianites ... nor did He direct Gideon to form an alliance with the nations around Israel, and enlist their aid in driving them out. Instead, God sent him first to his own home where conditions existed which were contrary to God's will.

The task assigned to Gideon was a difficult one ... his own father had turned from God and had built an altar to Baal and had planted a grove, the symbol of heathen worship, beside it.

All evidence of idolatry had to be removed from his father's house. It required courage to execute this command of God, but God had said, "... Surely I will be with thee ..." (Judges 6:16 KJV)

Too many today lack the courage to remove from our homes all evidence of unbelief and to instill there a spirit of faith, trust, and obedience to God.

While it is true that we do not worship Baal, or build idols ... how many bow down in spirit to the idols of wealth, security, pleasure, or fame? Are we more concerned about money, clothing, appearance, and an easy existence than we are about serving God, and the salvation of our souls?

Gideon was instructed to do more than tear down the altars to a false god ... he was to build an altar to the Lord, and his father's house was to be consecrated to God.

Every father and mother should glorify God and Christ in their lives and in their homes through their obedience to God's Word. We should then give our children the advantage of being raised in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

The influence and importance of the home is minimized in our modern times, however history shows us that the spirituality of nations is largely determined by the spiritual tenor of its individual families.

We may not understand the impact our **one** home might have on the godliness of our nation, but in obeying the commands of God within our homes we give God more *tools* to use in the spreading of His Word, and the execution of His will.

Our Godly homes will serve as shining lights in a world full of darkness, and provide evidence that there is truly virtue in serving the Lord ... and, if it be God's will, our Godly homes may be the reason for His continued blessings and mercy upon our nation.

... Bob James

Our Prayer List...

- ⤴ The Duryea's grandchildren (Emma and Jessie) ... Everett Guyton ... Donna Banghart ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... our young people here at Washington ... our young people away at college ... the men and women in military service ... leaders of our nation ... leaders of our congregation ... our congregation.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15 NIV)

Items of Note...

- ⤴ There will be a Men's Business Meeting today starting at 4:00pm.
- ⤴ We will begin a series of Men's Leadership Studies. The first class is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 31st. Men desiring to attend ... please let me know if that date works on your calendars.
- ⤴ The weekly topics and reading assignments for the Bible Studies are shown below. The lesson material can be printed from the Member's Shared Files section on the website.

The Patriarchs

Genesis 19 - 50

December 30	Genesis 19 - 20	Sodom and Gomorrah
January 2 nd		Abraham and Abimelech
January 6 th	Genesis 21 - 22	Birth of Isaac
January 9 th		Isaac Offered
January 13 th	Genesis 23 - 28:9	Death of Sarah
January 16 th		Jacob and Esau
January 20 th	Genesis 28:10 - 36; 38:1-30	Jacob
January 23 rd		Judah and Tamar
January 27 th		Joseph Dreams
January 30 th	Genesis 37 - 39	Potiphar's House
February 3 rd		Brothers Reunited
February 6 th	Genesis 40 - 50	Joseph Forgives

- ⤴ Remember, as a part of our Bible School program each family should strive to have a review each week of the material discussed in our classes.
- ⤴ Anyone desiring a family or an individual Bible Study should contact me (Bob James). I keep Tuesdays and Thursdays open for these studies.