

The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 7

March 3, 2013

Washington church of Christ

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Order of Services

Sunday, March 3, 2013

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Lee Redd
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Ralph Ruggiero
Prayer for the Cup	David Osinski
Prayer for the Collection	Scott Thomas
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Morning Closing Prayer	Cameron Wydro
Evening Closing Prayer	Bill Duryea
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

The Simplicity that is in Christ...

Paul had labored in Corinth for about a year and six months teaching the Word of God (Acts 18:11), in an effort to establish them in the faith. While doing this, he confined his teachings to the simple principles of the gospel, and purposefully stayed away from the philosophical discussions so dear to Greek minds.

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

(2 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV)

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. (1 Corinthians 2:1 NKJV)

Paul had the education which would allow him to engage in such, yet he determined not to know anything among them except "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). And, after his departure, he expressed this fear that their minds had been corrupted, or led away from these simple gospel facts.

According to Webster, the primary meaning of "simplicity" is "clearness" or "plainness". Surely the command of Jesus to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15), indicates that the things necessary for salvation are clear and plain, such that they can be understood by all men. And, the Bible plainly infers that all are capable of comprehending these essential facts with its proclamation that God "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth". (1 Timothy 2:4 NKJV)

Furthermore, in foretelling the way of holiness which Christ would make available to all men, the prophet Isaiah wrote;

A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. (Isaiah 35:8 NKJV)

Since the days of Christ, and Paul, much has sprung up in religious teachings which can corrupt the minds of men and lead them away from the simplicity that is in Christ. Many seek to justify and excuse these things by attributing them to an ambiguity on the part of the Bible. They make trite expressions such as, "We can't all be expected to understand the Bible alike", or, "We have a different interpretation of that".

These, and other similar positions, dispute the fact that ALL MEN can come to the KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH, and they are often used to evade a conclusion from passages which are so simple that a small child can grasp their full meaning.

A perfect example of the simplicity that is in Christ is His statement of the conditions of salvation from sin. Just before He ascended to the Father, Jesus instructed his Apostles;

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16 NKJV)

In this plain statement, there is no hidden meaning, nor figurative language which requires human interpretation. Yet there is more controversy and more diversity of teaching over what one must do to be saved than over any other single subject. Men will cite passages which are extraneous to the subject, or point to a scripture pertaining to salvation where baptism is not mentioned. But if this statement of Christ were written on the board of a fifth grade classroom, and the students were asked the question, "who would be saved according to this statement?" the clarity of Jesus' instruction would be apparent. The students would have no difficulty in answering, "He that believes and is baptized". The only students who would omit baptism from the answer would be those in danger of failing English, or those whose minds had already been led away from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The church for which Christ died is also clearly outlined in God's plan for the redemption for man. Sometimes the minds of men are led away from the simplicity that is in Christ by the subtle appeal to "join a church of your choice", which is usually followed by a claim that all of the hundreds of different religious bodies have the approval of God, so the "which" church does not matter.

The first mention of the church in the New Testament is too clearly stated to allow such latitude in the teaching concerning it.

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:16-18 NKJV)

Again, if you pose to those same fifth grade students the question, "How many churches did Christ build according to this passage?" would there be a single student who could not provide the correct answer? Or, would there be questions in their minds about the ownership, or about how to refer to it?

The salvation of man required that Christ *"by the grace of God should taste death for every man"* (Hebrews 2:9). When a person complies with the conditions of salvation, as commanded in the Bible, the Lord adds them to the His church (Acts 2:47). All those who have been added to Christ's church, and who remain faithful, will be rewarded with a crown of life. (Revelation 2:10).

Take care and do not be led away from the simple plan of salvation which God has made available to every man.

...Bob

Our Prayer List...

▲ Georgia DeLorenzo ... Doug Focht ... Everett Guyton ... Donna Banghart ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... 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)

EVENTS AND NOTES

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY @ 4:00PM

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 7TH AT 7:00PM.

OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH TOMMY PEELER IS BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH.

THE JEFFRIES WILL HOST A POT-LUCK LUNCH AFTER SERVICES ON MARCH 10TH.

A "MEAL LIST" IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD FOR ANYONE WANTING TO PROVIDE A MEAL FOR THE PEELER FAMILY DURING OUR MEETING.

THERE WILL BE A TEACHERS MEETING ON SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH @ 5:00PM. THE NEW BIBLE SCHOOL TERM STARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH.

LOCAL GOSPEL MEETINGS ...

EXTON, PA ON MARCH 8TH - 10TH. KEVAN O'BANION WILL DELIVER THE LESSONS.

ANYONE DESIRING A FAMILY OR AN INDIVIDUAL BIBLE STUDY PLEASE CONTACT ME (BOB JAMES).