

# The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 10

March 24, 2013

## Washington church of Christ

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### Order of Services

**Sunday, March 24, 2013**

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Stan Thompson
Preaching	Ralph Ruggiero
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	David Osinski
Prayer for the Cup	Pete Ferencze
Prayer for the Collection	Bill Duryea
Assisting at the Table	Bob Celentano Jr.
Morning Closing Prayer	Tom Dolan
Evening Opening Prayer	Bob Celentano
Announcements	Brian Jeffries

### 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

### "Some Say..."

In Matthew 16:13-18 we read two things over which controversies have raged since the days of Christ. Just as men then had incorrect opinions relative to the identity of Christ, today men proclaim fanciful theories regarding Christ and His church.

Despite all that the prophets had written to facilitate their recognition of the promised Messiah, the men whom the disciples encountered had reached

four false conclusions as to the identity of Christ. "Some say John the Baptist" was the first report. King Herod had started this report himself...

*At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him." (Matthew 14:1-2 NKJV)*

This conclusion accounts for the many miracles performed by Jesus that were generating much attention, but does not acknowledge Christ as the Messiah.

"Some say ... Elijah". This would be the fearless prophet of God that lived in the days of Ahab and Jezebel, and rebuked them openly for their sins (1 Kings 21:17 -24). Due to a misconception of the prophecies which referred to John, (Malachi 4:5, 6), the Jews had long expected Elijah's return to earth. This return would be accompanied by mighty wonders, so some said that Christ was Elijah, who had returned from Heaven, where he had been carried by the whirlwind. (2 Kings 2:11).

"Some say ... Jeremiah", who had been the prophet of God in the last days before Judah was carried away into Babylon. He had wept over the Jews, and had pleaded with them to return to God. Since Jesus had been among them for two years with a similar message, they had been reminded of Jeremiah.

And, still others said Jesus was "one of the prophets".

Each of these conclusions was no doubt reached because the persons had detected a resemblance between Jesus and the one whom they supposed Him to be. But despite these similarities, we all know that Jesus was, and is, not what "Some say".

It should be noted that even though one of these conjectures originated in the palace of Herod the king, it was still wrong. This all emphasizes the importance of determining the truth about Christ and Christianity, and refusing to be guided by

*When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets (Matthew 16:13-14 NKJV)*

what some say no matter how highly placed they may be on the social register or in the academic ranks of our land. Many college professors, and even men in pulpits, are disputing the divinity of Christ, and scoffing at His miracles, and His authority.

When Simon Peter correctly stated His identity ...

*"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

... immediately, Christ announced His intention to build His church, which He also designated as the Kingdom of Heaven.

The men of His day, including His Apostles, also had misconceptions of His church or kingdom (Acts 1:6; Luke 17:20, 21). They could only visualize an earthly kingdom with positions of honor (Matthew 20:21).

Although the Spiritual Kingdom has a King, has His law to direct the Kingdom, and has subjects who are to obey His Law, as do earthly kingdoms, these similarities do not make the Kingdom earthly any more than one point of similarity would cause Jesus to be the one who men supposed Him to be.

There are literally hundreds of major religious groups claiming Divine origin. Each of them teach some bible truths, and are similar in some point to the church which Christ promised to build.

*"Some say"* that one church is as good as another ... and *"Some say"* to join the church of your choice, because they have concluded from some point of similarity that all are of God.

Christ stated that *He* would build the church, so all human organizing of "churches" is forbidden. The church which Christ did build is clearly pictured in the New Testament, and one point of similarity to it is not enough.

The saved are added to the church, (Acts 2:47), and the Lord, who does the adding, has plainly stated;

*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.* (Mark 16:16 KJV)

The decrees of the King on governing His Kingdom are incorporated in the Scriptures so,

*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*  
(2 Timothy 3:17 KJV)

These are complete and immutable, so that we need no other books which contain what *"Some say"*.

Let us discount and discard completely all that cannot be proven by that which God has said concerning Christ and His church, and study the Word daily to learn ALL that He has said on the subject.

One point of similarity, or ALMOST all of them, is not enough regardless of what *"SOME SAY"*!

...Bob

## ***Our Prayer List...***

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

THERE WILL BE A LADIES BIBLE STUDY THURSDAY EVENING @ 7PM.

WE WILL NOT HAVE THE THURSDAY MORNING STUDY THIS WEEK DUE TO THE LADIES THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY.

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

- ▲ MEN'S SPIRITUAL & BUSINESS MEETING, SUNDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>.
- ▲ NORTHEAST FC CAMP, JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> – JULY 5<sup>TH</sup>.
- ▲ BOB AT WEST POINT ON SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>. STAN WILL DELIVER THE LESSON HERE
- ▲ WASHINGTON LADIES' RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup>.
- ▲ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOE WORKS OF THE FAIR LAWN CONGREGATION ON OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup>.

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