

The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 11

March 31, 2013

Washington church of Christ

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Order of Services

Sunday, March 31, 2013

Song Leader	Tom Dolan
Prayer	Bob Wydro
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bob Celentano
Prayer for the Cup	Stan Thompson
Prayer for the Collection	Ralph Ruggiero
Assisting at the Table	Gennaro Ruggiero
Morning Closing Prayer	Lee Redd
Evening Opening Prayer	Scott Thomas
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

“Be Ye Reconciled To God”

Many of the words in the English vocabulary have inherent beauty, in the way that they sound or their significance. *Reconciled* is a beautiful word from both standpoints,

When we consider its meaning; *“to bring two or more people back into a friendly relationship with each other after a dispute or estrangement, or return to a friendly relationship”* (Encarta Dictionary), we see a most desirable condition for our troubled world.

As used in the bible, the word pictures a happy solution to problems involving persons in the two institutions established by God ... the church and the home.

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24 NKJV)

Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11 NKJV)

We all rejoice when a breach in either the family of God, or the family of man has been healed, but when the parties at odds are God and man, as the words of Paul in our text imply, there is occasion for greater rejoicing. Reconciliation to God has been man's greatest need since the days of Adam.

In the book of Romans the Apostle referenced a perpetual estrangement;

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (Romans 5:12 NKJV)

The prophet Isaiah declares the impact of sin on our relationship with God;

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2 NKJV)

And, David spoke to the severity of our sins with this warning;

God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day. (Psalms 7:11 NKJV)

Unless the wrath of God is appeased, and reconciliation effected, we will be lost eternally.

With the plea, “Be ye reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20), Paul addresses the question of who should be reconciled to whom. Over two thousand years ago God made the necessary arrangements for sinful man to avoid His wrath ...

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19 KJV)

This passage actually helps us to answer two of the most important questions regarding the vital subject of reconciliation ... in addition to the *who*, the question of *where* can man be reconciled to God, is answered in the general sense by Paul’s statement, “*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself*”.

The necessity of reconciliation to God demands that we locate specifically where God’s Word states that it takes place. We’ve just read that it takes place in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19), and, when we read Romans 5:10 we learn;

For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. (Romans 5:10 NKJV)

In his letter to the church at Colosse Paul wrote that peace with God was made possible through the death of Christ (Colossians 1:19-21). At Calvary, Christ became “*the propitiation (appeasement) for our sins, and sins of the whole world*” (1 John 2:2).

And, the Apostle Peter adds;

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,” (1 Peter 3:18 NKJV)

The assurance that all nations can be reconciled to God is given in the passage originally written by Paul to the Ephesians. He first stated their relationship to God before the death of Christ;

“that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” (Ephesians 2:12 NKJV)

He then stated;

“and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” (Ephesians 2:16 NKJV)

So, we see that man can be reconciled to God in Christ, in His death, and in His body.

Paul tells us “how” this can be accomplished;

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4 NKJV)

Have you made peace with God through obedience to His Truth?

...Bob

EVENTS AND NOTES

WE WILL HAVE THE THURSDAY MORNING STUDY THIS WEEK STARTING AT 11AM ... ALL ARE WELCOME.

THERE WILL NOT BE A MEN’S CLASS THIS COMING THURSDAY EVENING. THE CONTINUATION OF THIS CLASS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN THE BUSINESS MEETING.

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

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

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

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)