

Washington church of Christ

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washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, May 12, 2013

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

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Sin - Our Most Deadly Enemy...

In this day and age there is a strong tendency to forget the danger in sin. Satan, and his human followers, have glamorized sin and in many ways made it so attractive that we are seemingly blinded to the evil that lies beneath its surface.

Many religious leaders are afraid to condemn many practices of our times which God has condemned in His Word ... many parents close their eyes to the dangers of these practices, and pray that their children will emerge from their temptations unscathed ... and in many other ways our generation acts as though sin is something abstract and far away. All the while, sin deteriorates the moral foundation of our society.

We read in Hebrews 3:13...

but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

From the time that sin entered into the world God has tried to reveal to man the dreadful nature of sin. Every altar built by the patriarchs for the offering of sacrifices to God was a reminder of the death that comes from sin. The Apostle Paul wrote that the Law of Moses was given to expose sin...

Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. (Romans 7:12-13 NKJV).

The greatness of a thing can often be measured in terms of the power required to overcome it. Today cancer is among the most dreaded of diseases. All the power and influence of modern medicine cannot easily, if at all, combat and overcome the devastation of this disease. And, as has been the case with polio, malaria, and the like, it seems the more dreaded the disease, the more difficult the remedy. If we apply this perspective to sin we can begin to understand its dreadful nature.

In the atonement for sin no animal could be found worthy to meet the requirements for the redemption of man...

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. (Hebrews 10:4)

Not even among man himself could one be found who was worthy to atone for the sins of the human race;

With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? (Micah 6:6-7)

God wanted to redeem man and he could find no sacrifice sufficient to take away sin ... except for His “only begotten Son”. How great must be the power of sin in that it required such a price for the removal of its guilt. How can man disregard the danger in sin, and continue in it without fear, when only the blood of Christ can heal its guilt?

When we consider the consequence of sin, and realize the ruin it causes in the lives of its victims, we should be moved to be more careful in our daily lives.

Sin can harden ones heart and sear ones conscience...

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits ... having their own conscience seared with a hot iron, (1 Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV)

This effect often leads one to think that they can continue in sin until they want to stop ... and then stop sinning without difficulty. But the tragic reality is that while a person is in sin, sin is searing their conscience to the point that many lose the desire to stop sinning and to turn to God.

Another consequence of sin is that it can shorten, and make wretched, our lives here on this earth. Because of various sins our bodies are weakened to the point of being victims of disease. And, sin robs us of peace and happiness.

Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people. (Proverbs 14:34)

No home, church, or nation, can enjoy peace while sin remains unchecked ... nor can there be peace in a heart where sin is allowed to exist without restraint.

The eternal consequences of sin are the most dreadful. Sin separates man from God, in this life and the life to come...

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 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 59:1-2)

Sin brings death to the soul...

"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die. (Ezekiel 18:4)

Since Paul in Romans 3:10 declares that “there is none righteous, no not one” and in Romans 3:23 that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” this fate of spiritual death awaits all who have failed to apply the only remedy for sin. It is only through the grace of God that we have a way of escape revealed in the Gospel of Christ.

In John 8:24 Jesus warned all unbelievers, “for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” In Acts 3:19 Peter states that repentance is also necessary for the remission of sins. Peter’s language here demands that we search for other instructions from God in order to have our sins blotted out ... and these we find in passages like Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16.

Only the blood of Christ can take away sins, and Christ has promised, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16)

Will you recognize today that sin is our most dreadful enemy and turn from sin to God? And, from death to life?

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Our Prayer List...

Doug Focht ... 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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

- ✦ THE PISCATAWAY CHURCH WILL HOST A SPRING BIBLE SERIES ON MAY 17TH-19TH WITH LARRY ROUSE. A FLYER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ✦ SINGING AT THE UPPER WEST MANHATTAN CONGREGATION ON SATURDAY, MAY 18TH. STEPHEN ROUSE WILL LEAD US IN THREE – 45 MINUTE SESSIONS OF SINGING WITH SOME INSTRUCTION INCLUDED.
- ✦ A GOSPEL LECTURE SERIES AT THE UPPER WEST MANHATTAN CONGREGATION ON JUNE 8TH – 9TH. FIVE YOUNG EVANGELISTS FROM THE METRO AREA WILL PRESENT THE LESSONS. A FLYER IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ✦ NORTHEAST FC CAMP, JUNE 30TH – JULY 5TH.
- ✦ WASHINGTON LADIES’ RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 6TH & 7TH.
- ✦ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOE WORKS OF THE FAIR LAWN CONGREGATION ON OCTOBER 11TH – 13TH.