

## Washington church of Christ

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[washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com](http://washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com)

### Order of Services

**Sunday, May 26, 2013**

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Tom Dolan
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Ralph Ruggiero
Prayer for the Cup	Antonio Ruggiero
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Glenn Montgomery
Scripture Reading	Stan Thompson
Morning Closing Prayer	Scott Thomas
Evening Opening Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Announcements	Bill Duryea

### Our Prayer List...

Bill Duryea's brother-in-law (Brian) ... 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)*

# The Washington Messenger

Volume 2 – Number 18

**May 26, 2013**

### *The Tie That Blinds...*

The basic human emotions, love pity, joy, grief, and anger have been the source of much good through the years. The influence of love upon a man's behavior towards others has been the basis for many compelling stories in every generation.

Piety has caused man to be more liberal with the faults and short comings of his fellow man. Joy has moved man to share his happiness with the unhappy. Grief has produced compassion and sympathy with the sorrowful in many human hearts. And, honorable people have been motivated by indignation to address and correct many social injustices.

These same emotions have also proved hazardous to the human family through the years. Pity has moved men and women to make unwise decisions in very important matters. Joy has become an obsession with some, causing them to ignore the unfortunate. Grief has hardened some persons against God and humanity. Anger has led to words and actions that have hurt many, and destroy lives and property.

And, as incredible as it may seem, human history has proven that love can be the most powerful, and dangerous, of all human emotions. Love can bind a person tightly to the object of their affection, and all too often the tie that binds is also the tie that blinds!

Love can blind us to faults and errors in persons and things we love, that we can see clearly in things we do not love as much.

The wisest human that ever lived (I Kings 3:12), was blinded by love to turn from God, who had provided him so much, to idolatry. In I Kings 11:1-4 we read...

*But King Solomon loved many foreign women ... Solomon clung to these in love. ... and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. (1 Kings 11:1-4 NKJV)*

Many who are much less wise than Solomon become so attached to people, customs, and institutions that they fail to see the faults and weaknesses in them, and overlook the merits in others.

The Jews became so attached to the law of Moses that when Jesus came, they were unable, and unwilling, to see the gospel for their looking so dotingly at the law. Describing their actions, Paul wrote...

*But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. (2 Corinthians 3:14-16 NKJV)*

Many today who want to claim eternal life made possible by God through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, feel the same way about the law of Moses as did those Jews. Some are so wedded to the belief that the Ten Commandments are all that man must heed to go to heaven, and others are so in love with David's instruments of music, that they refuse to see that the old law has given way to the gospel, "the law of Christ". (Galatians 6:2) In cases such as these, the tie that blinds is stronger than the warning of Paul,

*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.* (Galatians 5:4 KJV)

Many persons have been persuaded to join some human denomination, and have later come to know that the New Testament teaches that Christ has but one church, which He calls His own, (Matthew 16:16). But friends, loved ones, or associates in their religious group cause them to close their eyes to its faults and weaknesses. In some cases a deep attachment to a name, doctrine, or organization will keep a person affiliated to an entity that they cannot justify by the New Testament. While admitting that they cannot read about "their church" in the Bible, these attachments prevent them from leaving their groups of human origin for the one true church which Jesus "purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). This is another instance of a tie that blinds.

Jesus warned...

*But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.* (Matthew 15:13 NKJV)

And David declares...

*Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;* (Psalms 127:1 NKJV)

In 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 the Apostle Paul presents another tie that blinds...

*But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.* (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 KJV)

When a person loves the world, and wants to do things of a worldly nature, his love for sinful pleasure can completely obscure from his view the dreadful consequences of sin and failure to obey the gospel.

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* (Romans 6:23 KJV)

*"... when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 NKJV)

How can we explain human indifference to such a terrible fate, except by admission that a love of worldly pleasures is a tie that blinds?

This trouble also affects many who profess to be Christians. We may hear someone say "I just cannot see any harm in it". When a person does not want to do the will of

God, if we are not careful, we can persuade ourselves that any command of God is nonessential, or that a substitute will do just as well.

Our love for our own way, rather the way of God, is the tie that blinds us to the plainly revealed truth in His Word. The right way is easily discernible to those who want to walk in it.

May the words of Jesus apply to us...

*But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;* (Matthew 13:16 NKJV)

## 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 NEXT MEN'S CLASS IS THURSDAY, MAY 30TH. ALL MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.
- ✦ THERE WILL BE A MEN'S SPIRITUAL/BUSINESS MEETING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, STARTING AT 4:00PM. ALL MEN OF THE CONGREGATION ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.
- ✦ THE NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH.
- ✦ OUR NEXT PRAYER GATHERING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 29TH. PLEASE SEE BOB WYDRO IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HOST THIS SESSION.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ THE NORTHEAST FC CAMP, JUNE 30TH – JULY 5TH.
- ✦ THE WASHINGTON LADIES' RETREAT – SEPTEMBER 6TH & 7TH.
- ✦ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOE WORKS OF THE FAIR LAWN CONGREGATION ON OCTOBER 11TH – 13TH.