

Washington church of Christ

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washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, June 2, 2013

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Bob Wydro
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Tom Dolan
Prayer for the Cup	Scott Thomas
Prayer for the Collection	Antonio Ruggiero
Assisting at the Table	Gennaro Ruggiero
Scripture Reading	Brian Jeffries
Morning Closing Prayer	Stan Thompson
Evening Opening Prayer	Daniel Wydro
Announcements	Bill Duryea

Our Prayer List...

Jan Thompson's Mom ... Doug Focht ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... Donna Banghart ... 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)

The Washington Messenger

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The Disciple's Influence...

In Jesus' initial teachings to His disciples He made two analogies ... one of a disciple being salt, and the other of a disciple being light.

Both are very expressive, and designate a service beyond itself. Both of these analogies also are important in what men often call the "human experience".

It is said that the Romans of Jesus' day had a statement, "There is nothing more useful than sun and salt." But Jesus addresses these symbols as characteristics of the members of His kingdom in the society in which they lived.

These two symbols, salt and light, refer to the enriching and preservative influence of the Christian in the world and to the influence or witness the Christian shares of Christ.

Let me state here that we often shy away from the word "witness", maybe because of its usage by dominations. Yet, Jesus taught that through their good works His disciples would be witnesses of God (Matthew 5:16).

Jesus' phrase, "You are the salt of the earth" suggests at least three things: purity, preservation, and flavor. It is said that salt in the Roman world symbolized purity ... no doubt from the process of using sea water and the sun to acquire the salt.

Roman soldiers were often paid in salt. This activity is said to be the basis for the word "salary." Jesus' use of the symbol of salt to describe the disciple emphasizes the call and influence of purity the Christian brings to society.

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
(Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV)*

But salt was also a preservative in that day when they did not have refrigeration. This meaning is expressed in Jesus' warning about salt that has lost its savor...

"Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Luke 14:34-35 NKJV)

Meat spoiled unless it was salted. Similarly, true disciples of Christ are preserving elements in the society within which we live.

Another characteristic of salt is that it loses itself in service to the object that is being salted or preserved and in doing so it positively affects that object by providing flavor.

When salt is applied to food properly, it is not so that one can taste the salt, but so that the food itself tastes more as it should. As salt makes the food more "foodier," the disciple as the salt of the earth makes the earth more as God would have it to be ... which is as it should be.

Our role in society is not to be overbearingly against it in as much as it is to enrich or purify the social order, making it more truly a realm of blessing for humanity.

Jesus went on to teach ... *"You are the light of the world."* Light as used here is a symbol of radiance, of openness, of joy compatible with the "blessedness" expressed in the Beatitudes.

There should be nothing secretive about the Christian's commitment or his way of life. The analogy of being a light to the world presents an influence for goodness, honesty, and love.

This is not a call to retreat from life, but a call to manifest the joy of fellowship with God as a witness to the world. The author James Tasker wrote, "... disciples must not hide themselves, but live and work in places where their influence can be felt."

While a light is to be seen, serving as a guide for travelers, it is basically to be of service. True disciples of Christ are His lights *in* the world, not calling attention to themselves but pointing the way *of* God ... and the way *to* God.

They obtain their light from the One who is the Light *of* the world...

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12 NKJV)

This visibility and service is expressed by Jesus in two illustrations ... the city on the hill and the candle placed on the lampstand. Light dispels darkness simply by being present.

The motive of the disciple's light is to illuminate the way of God for others, that by seeing our good works they may glorify God.

As a disciple of Jesus we live each day to do those things that please Him. In the context of our passage then, we must be salty and bright.

How salty is our salt, and how bright is our light?

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 ...

- ✦ THERE WILL BE A MEN'S SPIRITUAL/BUSINESS MEETING ON TODAY, JUNE 2ND, STARTING AT 4:00PM. ALL MEN OF THE CONGREGATION ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.
- ✦ THERE WILL BE A TEACHERS MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH, STARTING AT 5:00PM.
- ✦ THE NEXT LADIES BIBLE CLASS IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH.
- ✦ OUR NEXT PRAYER GATHERING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 29TH. PETE AND SHARON FERENCZE WILL HOST THIS GATHERING.
- ✦ 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.