

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

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February 9, 2014

Order of Services Sunday February 9, 2014

Song Leader	Tom Dolan
Prayer	Stan Thompson
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Ralph Ruggiero
Prayer for the Cup	Bill Duryea
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Celentano
Assisting at the Table	Glenn Montgomery
Scripture Reading	Bob James
Morning Closing Prayer	Scott Thomas
Evening Opening Prayer	Bob Wydro
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

Arguing With the Lord...

It seems that one of the most difficult things for man to learn and accept is that we are inferior to God in every respect. God is eternal, while *the days of our lives are seventy years* (Psalms 90:10 NKJV). God is all powerful, while we need to pray, as did David;

"LORD, make me to know my end, And what is the measure of my days, That I may know how frail I am." (Psalms 39:4 NKJV)

And, in no part of our being is our inferiority to God more evident than in our intellectual capability.

Although we may point with pride to the many intellectual advancements of the past, and recent years, this progress has been detrimental to the spiritual welfare of many persons. Some have become presumptuous such that they deny the existence of God, while others have become egotistical to the point of claiming equality to God in this respect.

Through it all, God reminds us;

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts". (Isaiah 55:9 NKJV)

The apostle Paul, who was a very learned man in his day, declared that *the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.* (1 Corinthians 1:25 NKJV)

Both David and Paul exhorts us to know that God is able to discern our every thought (Hebrews 4:12; Psalms 19:14). Surely the fact that mortal man is incapable of one thought of which God is not aware proves that God is far superior to man in the intellectual sense, and that we are in no position to question any of God's judgments or, as the title of this article suggests, argue with the Lord.

Throughout history we have examples of those who took a position to align their human reasoning against God's Divine commands, but the results always proved the futility of such actions.

In the book of Genesis we read how Cain, the first son of Adam, had his offering to God rejected, while Abel, his brother, offered *to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain* (Hebrews 11:4). What was the difference in the offerings? Was God being arbitrary, or did He discriminate unjustly against Cain? The answer is found in Hebrews 11:4;

"By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous..." (Hebrews 11:4 NKJV)

The great difference revealed is that Abel offered in faith, and Cain did not. While the Bible does not reveal many "specifics" of this example, Paul, in Romans 10:17, states that faith comes from hearing the Word of God. It must be concluded that Cain refused to comply with some requirement of God, whether in principle or in substance.

In Mathew 7:21-23 Jesus gives us a preview of the judgment in which He first forewarns us that that the entrance requirements for the kingdom of Heaven are rigid and exacting. He states that only he “*who does the will of My Father in heaven*” will be allowed to enter. Then He says that even on the great and final day ...

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Matthew 25:31 NKJV)

... there will be those who question God's judgments.

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' (Matthew 7:22 NKJV)

Despite their passionate plea on their behalf, and the impressive array of works which they recite, human reasoning will not prevail against the judgment of the Lord. He does not even bother to answer their arguments, nor dispute their works, but simple states;

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' (Matthew 7:23 NKJV)

From this we should learn that no amount of effort expended in this life doing the things which human wisdom dictates will take the place of doing the Will of God.

Most everyone wants to go to Heaven and the Bible reveals the requirements from God which are necessary to accomplish this. Yet, despite their authority, clarity and simplicity, there are many who chose to question the validity of some, if not all, of God's requirements for Salvation. Let's consider baptism.

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:16 NKJV)

No amount of human reasoning will enable us to know with certainty, why God chose a burial in water as the final act of obedience for man to be saved from sin. And, often we hear someone say, “I can't see where baptism has any connection to salvation”, or “I believe in God and have made Jesus Lord of my life. I don't need to be baptized”.

Although we may not “*see*”, we walk by “*faith*” and not by “*sight*”, (2 Corinthians 5:7), and in doing so we must realize that God had placed *baptism* between “*he that believeth*” and “*will be saved.*” No amount of human reasoning will negate this requirement.

This is but one example, yet it should stress the importance of checking each of the commands in the Will of our Father God to see if we have complied with them, or if we have in effect argued with the Lord by denying the importance of any one of them.

In Acts chapter 5, the astute Gamaliel, a doctor of the Jewish Law, gave the Jewish council some advice which is as timely now as it was then;

“... for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.” (Acts 5:38-39 NKJV)

In the Old Testament, the powerful monarch Nebuchadnezzar was forced to admit;

All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?" (Daniel 4:35 NKJV)

The man who is truly wise will say as the prophet Samuel;

“... Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.”

(1 Samuel 3:10 NKJV)

Then, when we have determined that God has spoken, for us today through His Word, the Bible, we will obey without hesitation. Only through these actions can we prove that we love God and seek no quarrel with Him.

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3 NKJV)

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Adam Thompson ... Jordan Thomas
Matt Grimaldi ... John Baxter ... Britta Commans ... Mary
Celentano's father ... Kathleen Wydro's mother ...

For Wisdom and Good Judgment – The Leaders of our
congregation ... the leaders of our nation

For God's Care and Good Providence – Our young people
away at college ... Our young people here at
Washington ... our members who are traveling ... the
men and women in military service ... our congregation.

The Evangelist and Teachers We Help Support – Jon Focht –
Tim Bunting – Scott Smelser – Dan Wydro

EVENTS AND NOTES

UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ARE ...

- ▲ ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, WE WILL HAVE A FOCUS ON THE LORD'S SUPPER LEAD BY STAN THOMPSON.
- ▲ WE WILL HAVE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, DIRECTLY AFTER MORNING WORSHIP. ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.
- ▲ THE NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING AND LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2ND.
- ▲ MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE EVANGELISTS THAT WE ASSIST ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.