

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 9

March 9, 2014

Order of Services

Sunday March 9, 2014

Song Leader	Dan Wydro
Prayer	Bob Celentano
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Pete Ferencze
Prayer for the Cup	Bob Wydro
Prayer for the Collection	David Osinski
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Scripture Reading	Patrick Wydro
Morning Closing Prayer	Stan Thompson
Evening Opening Prayer	Cameron Wydro
Announcements	Ralph Ruggiero

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

We Are What We Think...

We truly live in an age where information is readily available. Printed media, radio, television, and the internet provide a constant source of information ... many times whether we desire it or not. This constant bombardment of "information" often plays a large part in influencing our thoughts and opinions relative to people and things. As Christians we must recognize the impact this could have on our spiritual wellbeing.

The principle that "*we are what we think*" has long been taught God's Word.

Solomon, in all of his wisdom, wrote;

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: (Proverbs 23:7 KJV)

It's interesting that the Hebrew verb *thinketh* is found only in this passage, and is said to probably mean, "*as he is all along in his heart, so is he (at last) in act.*" (Albert Barnes)

Jesus taught ...

And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man." (Mark 7:20-23 NKJV)

The body of evidence supporting this principle grows daily, yet every person has to seemingly learn the lesson for himself ... ***we are what we think***. A possessive nature, self-indulgence, self-protectiveness, and self-centeredness create dysfunctions within us, distort perception, blur perspective, and hinder our obedience to God.

The opposite of this is also true. Those who fill their minds with positive affirmations, who concentrate on the noble virtues that make life, facilitate the wholeness that is God's design for mankind.

Two thousand years before psychologists were teaching this truth, Paul wrote to the church in Philippi...

Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. (Philippians 4:8 NKJV)

Let's take a closer look at Paul's admonition to the Philippian Christians...

Whatever things are true - Everything that was honest and just toward God and toward people was to be practiced by them, and they were in all things to be examples of the highest kind of morality. They were not to exhibit partial virtues; not to perform one set of duties to the neglect or exclusion of others; not to be faithful in their duties to God, and to neglect their duty to their fellow man, not to be punctual in their religious rites, and neglectful of the *common* laws of morality; but they were to do everything that could be regarded as the fair subject of commendation, and that was implied in the highest moral character. The word *true* refers here to everything that was the reverse of *falsehood*. They were to be true to their actions; true to their promises; true in their statements; and true in their friendships. They were to maintain the

truth about God; about eternity; about the judgment; and about every man's character. Truth is a representation of things as they are; and they were constantly to live under the correct impression of objects. A man who is false to his actions, or false in his statements and promises, is one who will always struggle in his relationship to God.

Whatsoever things are honest - The word *honest* is said to have originally been used in relation to gods, and to the things that pertained to them, as being worthy of honor or veneration. As applied to people, it commonly means grave, dignified, worthy of veneration or regard. In the New Testament it is rendered "grave" in 1Timothy 3:8; 3:11, and Titus 2:2, which are the only places where the word occurs except in this reference. The noun is rendered "*honesty*" in 1Timothy 2:2, and "*gravity*" in 1Timothy 3:4, and Titus 2:7. It occurs nowhere else in the New Testament. The word, therefore, does not express precisely what the word "honest" does with us, as confined to dealings or business transactions, but rather has reference to what was regarded as worthy of reputation or honor. It includes indeed what is right in the transaction of business, but it embraces also much more, and means that the Christian is to show respect to all the venerable and proper customs of society, when they do not violate conscience or disobey the law of God.

Whatsoever things are just - A Christian should be just in all his dealings. His religion does not exempt him from the strict laws which bind people to the exercise of this virtue, and there is no way by which a professor of *Christianity* can do more injury perhaps than by injustice and dishonesty in his dealings with others. It is to be remembered that the people of the world, in estimating a person's character, affix much more importance to the virtues of justice and honesty than they do to regularity in observing the ordinances of religion; and therefore if a Christian would make a favorable impression on his fellow-men with reference to God, it is crucial that he manifest uncorrupted integrity in his dealings.

Whatsoever things are pure - *Chaste* - in thought, in feeling, and in the *conversation* between the sexes. Paul instructed Timothy;

Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity. (1 Timothy 5:1-2 NKJV)

Whatsoever things are lovely - The word used here denotes "what is dear to anyone", rather than our typical connotation of "what is pleasing". Adam Clarke explains this as meaning "*Whatsoever is amiable on its own account and on account of its usefulness to others, whether in your conduct or conversation.*" One application would be that a Christian should not be sour, crabby, or irritable in his temper - for nothing hinders the cause of religion as an irritated temper, a morose look, and a disposition to find fault with everything.

Whatsoever things are of good report - That is, whatsoever is truly reputable in the world at large. (*Barnes*) There are actions which all people agree are commendable, and which in all ages and countries are regarded as virtues. Courtesy, kindness, respect for parents, purity between brothers and sisters, are among those virtues, and the Christian should be a pattern and an example in them all. His usefulness depends much more on the cultivation of these virtues than is commonly supposed.

If there be any virtue - if there is anything truly virtuous. Paul did not suppose that he had given a full catalogue of the virtues in which he would have them increase. He therefore adds that if there was anything else that had the nature of true virtue in it, they should be careful to cultivate that also. The Christian should be a pattern and an example of every virtue.

And if there be any praise - anything worthy of praise or that ought to be praised.

Think on these things - Let them be the object of your careful attention and study, so as to practice them. Think what they are; think on the obligation to observe them; think on the influence which they would have on the world around you.

The words of Solomon seem most applicable here...

Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23 NKJV)

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Jordan Thomas ... Matt Grimaldi ... Kathleen Wydro's Mom ... Britta Commans ... Everett Guyton

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 ...

- ⤴ THE UPPER WEST MANHATTAN CONGREGATION WILL HOST THEIR SPRING GOSPEL LECTURE SERIES ON MARCH 15-16, 2014. SCOTT SMELSER WILL PRESENT THE LESSONS.
- ⤴ THE FAIR LAWN CONGREGATION WILL HOST A REGIONAL TEEN LECTURE SERIES ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2015 STARTING AT 10:30AM. JEFF SMELSER WILL SPEAK ON THE TITLE "CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE"
- ⤴ OUR SPRING GOSPEL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 25TH – 27TH WITH PHIL ROBERTSON.
- ⤴ MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE EVANGELISTS THAT WE ASSIST ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.