

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 10

March 23, 2014

Order of Services

Sunday March 23, 2014

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Scott Thomas
Prayer for the Cup	Pete Ferencze
Prayer for the Collection	Bob Celentano
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Scripture Reading	Bob Celentano Jr
Morning Closing Prayer	Bob Wydro
Evening Opening Prayer	Derald Sanchez
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

The One Source of Joy...

Joy in this life has been said to be something rarely achieved and fleeting in its nature. From time to time many feel that their lot in life does not lend itself to experiencing joy ... with all of the responsibilities of the day, and the dim prospect that the future will reveal anything better, they go through this life having accepted the thought that joy for them can only be experienced in the world that is to come.

The writer of Ecclesiastes had a superior knowledge of the things of "life under the sun", and in his quest to determine the "purpose" of this life, and the "good" things within it, he seems to identify the one source of joy...

A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? (Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 NIV)

It seems that he came to the conclusion that modest enjoyment was possible, and that its source was God!

To the writer of Ecclesiastes, God was not an absentee landlord. He was a gracious Provider. And, apart from Him we would not have the basic staples of life or its simple delights.

The God of grace has given us freedom to enjoy His daily gifts. What we are not free to do is to be presumptuous of His grace or predict our own future...

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. (James 4:13-14 NIV)

We live life each day doing our best to fulfill our responsibilities ... knowing that God, according to His Will, will supply our needs...

Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. (Ecclesiastes 5:18 NKJV)

When we adopt the mindset of living each day as it comes in a way pleasing to God, we can better understand His inevitable sovereignty.

Seeing God's hand in the providing of the ordinary provisions we receive should fuel our faith to trust Him through the most challenging times.

So the message seems to be to enjoy each day as God gave it and to make the best of God's common gifts of food, drink, work, and love.

A matter that may complicate achievement of this objective is the fact that some people's lives are more challenged than others. From what we can see there are those who seem to go through this life with much enjoyment ... and others not so much. The writer tells us in Ecclesiastes 2:26 ...

For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind. (Ecclesiastes 2:26 NKJV)

Again, it is God who determines what kind of lot we have in life. And He does this on the basis of His knowledge of us and His purpose for our lives. His decisions are final ... it is our duty to live so as to please Him. Since He alone knows what is best for us, we must surrender to His decisions and accept the lot He sends us.

Other than attributing it to His great Love, the mystery of God's grace to us is unknown. Divine reward or judgment, as Solomon saw them, were based on criteria which were always dear to God but not always clear to the recipients' neighbors.

God directs our lives and rewards our ways, but as it was with Solomon, the manner, terms, and outcomes are much better known to Him than to us. We do our part by accepting the gifts he gives and enjoying them according to His Will.

If we were to skip to the conclusion of Solomon's writings we would read ...

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13 NIV)

Fearing God and keeping his commandments, then, may be understood in the light of what Solomon has been saying throughout the book.

God's will, he has told us, is that we not build our lives on wisdom, wealth, prestige, or lust. Rather, we should accept life as it is with its problems and mysteries and savor its modest pleasures as we can.

To do this is to fear God and obey him. Grasping after more, or chafing because we have less, is futile. God reserves to himself the right to determine our lot; our response is to make the best of it.

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Jordan Thomas ... Barbara Rhinehart (Bill Duryea's sister) ... Pete Ferencze ... Matt Grimaldi ... Kathleen Wydro's Mom ... Everett Guyton

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

For God's Care and Good Providence – Bertie Baxter ... 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 NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 6TH.
- ⤴ THERE WILL BE A SESSION TO LEARN NEW SONGS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 30TH AT 5PM. IF YOU HAVE ANY SONGS YOU LIKE TO CONGREGATION TO LEARN PLEASE GIVE THEM TO DERALD SANCHEZ.
- ⤴ OUR SPRING GOSPEL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 18TH – 20TH WITH PHIL ROBERTSON.
- ⤴ OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 17TH – 19TH WITH JOHN ISAAC EDWARDS.
- ⤴ MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE EVANGELISTS THAT WE ASSIST ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.