

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

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May 4, 2014

Order of Services

Sunday May 4, 2014

Song Leader	Tom Dolan
Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Derald Sanchez
Prayer for the Cup	Bob Celentano
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Scripture Reading	Patrick Wydro
Morning Closing Prayer	Bill Duryea
Evening Opening Prayer	Bob Wydro
Announcements	Stan Thompson

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

"Thou Has Destroyed Thyself..."

The person who throws himself away never likes where he lands. Israel, to whom these ominous words were spoken (Hosea 13:9 KJV), did not enjoy the fate which their wrong-doing had brought. The "broad way that leads to destruction" may be filled with pleasures that allure, but an end must be reached, and a heavy tool paid by all who travel that route. The Apostle Paul warns us;

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. (Galatians 6:7-8 NKJV)

Since the alternate route, the safe "way that leads to life", is accessible to all (Romans 6:23), the person who deliberately destroys themselves must assume sole responsibility for their actions. Only Israel was to blame for its difficulty, for God said;

"O Israel, return to the LORD your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity;" (Hosea 14:1 NKJV)

It is somewhat ironic that the destruction of Israel can be traced mainly to the dissipation, and misuse of the blessings of God. They were blessed with the Temple of God in their land, and concluded that God would not allow an enemy to defeat them because His House was there. This false sense of security led them to engage in gross disobedience that displeased God (Jeremiah 7:1-10).

God had given them a land that "flowed with milk and honey" (Numbers 14:8), yet they ignored His command to allow the land to rest each seventh year (Leviticus 25:3, 4). God blessed them abundantly, and, they offered Him polluted bread upon the altar and lame, blind, and sick animals in their sacrifices (Malachi 1:7-8 KJV). Every evidence of the favor of God which they possessed, they perverted until it brought God's Divine disfavor.

In every age and land, there has been a prominent trait of humanity to dishonor and disobey God, despite the repeated warnings from Him that such actions will lead to everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:9). The conduct of our current generation eerily parallels that which brought Israel to disaster.

The earth was made for man's benefit and habitation. When man disobeyed God the ground was cursed (Genesis 3:17), which meant that man who lived effortlessly, would continue to live from the earth, but through "toil and sweat, thorns and thistles."

With this plan of God for man and nature still operative today, man fears annihilation by the very force over which God placed him.

Nature, which God gave man to control, now controls man. From the wondrous atom, that tiny particle in God's vast creation looms a threat of total physical destruction to man who was given the power to control it. Truly in this way, man has destroyed himself.

The Bible tells us that God created Man in His image (Genesis 1:27). Man alone bears the unique stamp of God's design, intelligence, and power. Even the atheistic production calls us *homo sapiens* – thinking man or wise.

In the area of thinking and retentive powers, man's abilities are distinct. No other creature has the ability to think as he can. This also, is a great blessing from God, for this power can be used to build satisfying conclusions of life and religion. With this intellect man can get through to God, and know, and do, His will.

But again, man destroys himself through misuse of a wonderful blessing from God. Instead of consecrating his intelligence to the glorification of God, many men set their brilliant minds to work seeking to disprove the existence of the One who gave them the ability to think. This will in the end prove fatal for ...

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV)

When God placed man over the Garden of Eden, "to dress and keep it", He restricted one tree from his use;

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:16-17 NKJV)

If man had obeyed this explicit command of God, the responsibility of choice between good and evil would not have been his task. This first man, who was obviously free to obey, or to disobey this command, coveted the opportunity to be "as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5 KJV).

After the innocence of man was destroyed by sin, every person has the burden of choosing between good and evil, and is responsible to God for his decisions and deeds.

Every man has faced the moral imperative of choosing good while evil relentlessly pulls him towards destruction. Such a close follower of Christ as the Apostle Paul admitted;

I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (Romans 7:21 KJV)

Since we possess the knowledge of good and evil we must choose "good" or destroy ourselves.

"Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die. (Ezekiel 18:4 NKJV)

Although Israel had destroyed themselves, the God of grace did not leave them to the fate they deserved.

"O Israel, you are destroyed, But your help is from Me. (Hosea 13:9 NKJV)

He likewise offers to remove the consequences of our wrongdoings and to save us from the destruction we rightly deserve, if we will obey the gospel of Christ today.

The choice is ours ... destroy ourselves or accept Divine help.

Which will it be?

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Brian Jeffries ... Abigail Jeffries ...
Jordan Thomas ... Barbara Rhinehart (Bill Duryea's sister)
... 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 ...

- ⤴ AREA GOSPEL MEETINGS ...
- ⤴ WALLINGFORD, CT, ON MAY 2ND – 7TH, WITH BRIAN MESSERLI.
- ⤴ CANASTOTA, NY, ON MAY 9TH – 11TH, WITH JOE WORKS.
- ⤴ THE NEXT MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING AND LADIES BIBLE STUDY IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 4TH.
- ⤴ MONTHLY UPDATES FROM THE EVANGELISTS THAT WE ASSIST ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD.
- ⤴ CHECK OUT SCOTT SMELSER'S WEBSITE "3MINUTEBIBLESTUDY.COM".