

Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 15

April 27, 2014

Order of Services Sunday April 27, 2014

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Bill Duryea
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Pete Ferencze
Prayer for the Cup	Arnold Thompson
Prayer for the Collection	Scott Thomas
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Scripture Reading	Bob Celentano Jr
Morning Closing Prayer	Tom Dolan
Evening Opening Prayer	Stan Thompson
Announcements	Matt Grimaldi

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

Calling Evil Good ...

Isaiah records a warning from God to Israel that is certainly applicable to our world today ...

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isaiah 5:20 NKJV)

This is one of many scriptures in which God has spoken with alarming clarity on the subject of evil. The entire Bible, after the entrance of sin in Genesis 3, reminds us that God loves us, while He abhors all that is evil. God hates sin because it required the sacrifice of His only begotten Son to rescue man from the eternal destruction which sin brings (John 3:16). We should have the same attitude about evil, because it will prevent our entrance into heaven.

Then Jesus said to them again, "I am going away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin. Where I go you cannot come." (John 8:21 NKJV)

Our claim of being an enlightened generation is completely refuted by the complacent attitude which many maintain toward evil. In no area of our lives is this generation less realistic, with less inclination to view the conditions in light of the facts, and to deal with them practically, than in matters that are evil.

Where sin is involved, many are sentimentalists who engage in wishful thinking. When someone might dare to picture the effects of sin in hard terms, they are accused of "over dramatization".

An unwillingness to view evil realistically carries serious consequences. The Bible warns us against "the devices of Satan" (2 Corinthians 2:11), and the "deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13).

It seems that despite God's warnings, Satan has gained a definite advantage in that the ways by which many are blinded to the facts of evil today are as subtle as the evil one himself.

Our generation is constantly trying to endow evil persons and things with an irresistible glamour. Conduct which should cause the guilty party to be denounced by an enraged society is many times rationalized and "cloaked" in decency. Through this, the guilty are encouraged to be even more daring and reckless in their actions.

Also, in an effort to rid ourselves of the unpleasant fact of evil, some use synonyms which have “intellectual respectability”. They speak of *aberration*, *abnormality*, or *mal-adjustment*. These words are used in a futile attempt to excuse inappropriate, and many times evil, behavior. But when the mask of mystery is removed from these terms, which can sound so convincing, we will see that man has only given a palatable term to something he knows is unpalatable.

These terms, and others like them, remove the ugliness of evil from the minds of some, in that they possess an intellectual flavor which the common word, *sin*, does not contain ... so it is less annoying to speak of aberration or mal-adjustment.

This practice emphasizes the danger in human theories concerning **spiritual matters**. For example, *aberration* is defined to mean “a departure from what is normal or desirable”, “deviating from the right way; an error or mistake”. Does not this remind us of the definition the Bible gives for sin?

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. (1 John 3:4 NIV)

All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. (1 John 5:17 NIV)

Abnormality, which suggests that the person varies from the established type or standard, by failing to conform to rule, also suggests lawlessness. And mal-adjustment cries for guidance which can only be obtained from God...

O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. (Jeremiah 10:23 NKJV)

Another method through which some try to escape the reality of their evil deeds is through pride in human accomplishments. This manifests itself in their adopting an attitude of not allowing themselves to be bound by the restrictions of religion which their fathers endured.

While foolishly thinking that they have freed themselves from every barrier to complete happiness here on earth, they are now the prisoners of their own greed and lusts ... slaves of pleasure and exacting schedules, and in bondage to sin!

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. (John 8:34 NIV)

God who pronounced a woe upon all them “*that call evil good*”, has decreed;

"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)

Since the “wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), each of us should have our “*senses trained to discern both good and evil*” (Hebrews 5:14).

With David we should humbly state ...

Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. (Psalms 119:11 NKJV)

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 ...
- ▲ BETHLEHEM, PA, ON MAY 2ND – 4TH, WITH DAVID BREWER.
- ▲ WALLINGFORD, CT, ON MAY 2ND – 7TH, WITH BRIAN MESSERLI.
- ▲ CANASTOTA, NY, ON MAY 9TH – 11TH, WITH JOE WORKS.
- ▲ PERTH AMBOY WILL HOST A BILINGUAL EVANGELISTIC EFFORT ON APRIL 26TH. CALEB CHURCHILL WILL BE PREACHING.
- ▲ 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".