

# Washington church of Christ

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# The Washington Messenger

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## Order of Services Sunday August 3, 2014

Song Leader	Cameron Wydro
Prayer	Derald Sanchez
Preaching	Tim Bunting (AM) Ralph Ruggiero (PM)
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bill Duryea
Prayer for the Cup	Bob Celentano
Prayer for the Collection	Scott Thomas
Assisting at the Table	David Osinski
Morning Closing Prayer	Tom Dolan
Evening Opening Prayer	Stan Thompson
Announcements	Bob James

## 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

## Self-Examination...

As a part of our worship services on this Sunday morning we will partake of the Lord's Supper. And, as is our custom here, one of our brethren will stand at the communion table and exhort us all to prepare ourselves spiritually before taking the bread and the cup. All of this is done in following Paul's instruction that we are not to come to the table in an unworthy manner ... but rather we examine ourselves before we eat the bread and drink of the cup.

In the closing words of his second recorded letter to the church in Corinth the Apostle again spoke of our attention to self-examination...

*Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?*  
(2 Corinthians 13:5 NIV)

I think that the lesson here is that we should not only prepare ourselves before engaging in the Lord's Supper, but also continually test our actions, words, and predispositions.

Too many times our own human weakness causes us to underestimate the danger of failing to test ourselves. If we are lax in doing this, our laxity can turn into backsliding. Backsliding is characterized by failing to pray, failing to obey the message of Scripture, failing to worship, and failing to associate with our fellow brethren on the Lord's Day. As a consequence of this process, countless Christians have gradually drifted away from the Lord and they no longer have fellowship with him. Every child of God must give an answer to the question whether he or she is in the faith.

*Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

(1 Corinthians 11:27-29 NKJV)

It has always been easy to examine others rather than ourselves ... in our passage here, the Corinthians questioned whether Christ spoke through Paul, (2 Corinthians 13:3), but he tells them to examine their own hearts to see whether Christ is living within them. They desired to find out whether Paul's credentials were genuine. But Paul matches this inquiry with an injunction that they check to see if their own lives are authentic.

This same apostle wrote to the church in Galatia...

*For each one shall bear his own load.* (Galatians 6:5 NKJV)

The meaning here is that there are some duties and tasks which we alone can perform, for which we alone must accept responsibility. Others may support us through their prayers and encouragement, through "being with us," but the load is ours to bear.

Making application of this to our passage, the load each of us must bear on our own is the task of self-examination and self-correction. The standard of measurement for our lives is that which God reveals through His Word. Therefore, we can never measure ourselves against other Christians ... much less non-Christians who may excuse themselves by accusing us of hypocrisy. Paul talked about this in another setting ...

*For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.* (2 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV)

We look at ourselves in relation to God's Will for our lives, and bear the responsibility of judgment in terms of our being and doing as a person in Christ. Paul asks whether the Corinthians were in the faith and indicates his confidence that they indeed were believers.

I think here Paul has in mind the living faith of a Christian who faithfully walks in the footsteps of the Lord and communes with him in prayer.

True faith is active and constantly forces us as Christians to test ourselves to see whether Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts. True faith testifies to intimate fellowship with the Father and his Son...

*that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.* (1 John 1:3 NKJV)

In our topic passage Paul makes a last comment ... a declarative phrase that borders on a rhetorical question requiring a negative response...

*"... unless, of course, you fail the test?"* (2 Corinthians 13:5 NIV)

As he continues his emphasis on their self-examination he poses the possibility of their failing the test. He knows that they are able to pass it, yet he wants them to contemplate the consequences of failure. Failure leads to hardening of the heart, and hardening of the heart to spiritual death.

*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "TODAY," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.* (Hebrews 3:12-13 NKJV)

### ***Our Prayer List...***

***For Spiritual Responsiveness*** – All of our wayward members

***For Physical Healing*** – Bill Duryea's mother took a fall and is in rehab ... Georgia DeLorenzo is still at home convalescing.

***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

### ***EVENTS AND NOTES***

- ⤴ THERE IS A MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THIS AFTERNOON STARTING AT 4:00PM.
- ⤴ WE HAVE A NEW **ONLINE** BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE THAT IS **NOW** AVAILABLE FROM OUR WEBSITE. **CHECK IT OUT! ... INVITE THOSE YOU KNOW TO TAKE IT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD!!!**
- ⤴ WE ARE WANTING TO START A WEEKLY "MEET-UP" BIBLE STUDY IN A LOCAL PUBLIC LOCATION. THE DAY WOULD BE EITHER TUESDAY OR THURSDAY. PLEASE SEE BOB IF YOU WOULD PARTICIPATE AND HAVE A LOCATION SUGGESTION.
- ⤴ PLEASE KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CURRENT ON THE WEBSITE. THE INFO IS USED TO COMMUNICATE NEWS AND EVENTS