

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

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September 14, 2014

Order of Services Sunday September 14, 2014

Song Leader	Tom Dolan
Prayer	Bill Duryea
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Stan Thompson
Prayer for the Cup	Matt Grimaldi
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Morning Closing Prayer	Scott Thomas
Evening Opening Prayer	Arnold Thompson
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

Be Thankful...

Two characteristics of a man that are often used as a measure of his greatness are humility and gratitude. I can't recall of any character of the Bible portrayed by God as being great that could be also said to be unthankful.

The Apostle Paul is an example of a great man from the Bible. From his writings we can see many things for which he was thankful.

In Colossians 3:13 we read one such mention that is desperately needed today:

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. (Colossians 3:15)

The Bible also contains the record of numerous ingrates possessing wicked character. Romans chapter 1 describes some of the depraved men of the first century. Paul wrote that they sank to inhuman depths of sin, and behaved as brute beasts. The cause for their conduct is easily seen...

"because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened." (Romans 1:21)

Research on the etymology of the word "thank" shows that it comes from the same root as the word "think." The account of man's depravity Paul recorded in Romans chapter 1 seems to bear witness to this fact, in that when men refuse to thank God, they cease to think of Him, and the resulting darkened condition of their hearts plunged them deeper into sin!

The children of Israel were guilty of the sin of ingratitude throughout their travels from Egypt to Canaan, and this attitude was responsible for their often disobedience to God. Even after God fulfilled all of His promises to them and enabled them to comfortably settle in the "land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8), their ingratitude continued.

Webster's dictionary defines *ingratitude* as an insensibility to favors, and indisposition to repay them. This definition is a true representation of Israel. They were insensitive to the abundant blessings of God ... and repaid Him with disobedience and rebellion.

The Bible records the actions of Israel for our example...

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

The actions of modern man often makes one wonder if we have learned anything!

Our country is enjoying unprecedented grace and prosperity, yet it fails to praise God, "from whom all blessings flow" (James 1:17). As a result, sin and immorality run rampant.

Note the company among which unthankfulness is listed:

*But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, **unthankful**, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (2 Timothy 3:1-4)*

Paul often expressed gratitude for God's many blessings, and, it seems he placed one blessing, or gift, above all of the others.

In II Corinthians 9:15 he wrote: "Thanks be to God for His *incredible gift!*" This could only have reference to the gift of God's "only begotten Son." (John 3:16) The true value of this gift can never be computed in terms of anything remotely comprehensible by man. There are no terms which adequately describe the fullness of this blessing. However, the Bible helps us with these passages...

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ**, (Ephesians 1:3)*

*For the wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**. (Romans 6:23)*

*And having been perfected, He became **the author of eternal salvation** to all who obey Him, (Hebrews 5:9)*

*For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus**, (1 Timothy 2:5)*

In as much as all of these things for which we hope and trust are in Christ, we should keep Him foremost in our Thanks to God. Let us not be so carnal minded that we only appreciate the material and temporal blessings God gives.

If God had given each of us an immense material fortune, and had left us without the gift of His Son, we would still be most destitute and helpless.

Since by definition, gratitude involves both the recognition of our blessings and the desire to repay our *Benefactor*, have we shown ourselves to be grateful recipients of this great gift?

Willing obedience to the Gospel of Christ and a life of faithful service will be evidence of our thankfulness to God for His *incredible gift!*

Paul wrote to the Philippians:

*Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; (Philippians 4:6)*

Let us be as ready to thank God for His blessings as we are to request and receive them. Be grateful for our country, our homes and families, our food and clothes, our friends and neighbors, and all of the other things that God provides for our temporal enjoyment.

But keep at the top of our "Thank You" lists God's *incredible gift* and the eternal spiritual blessings which we can have only in Him.

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Bill Duryea's Parents ... Bob James' Nephew (Michael) ... Ray Thompson ... Georgia DeLorenzo

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

- ✦ LET'S START INVITING OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO UR GOSPEL MEETING ... FLYERS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON.
- ✦ OUR NEXT THURSDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 14THTH AT THE PERKIN'S RESTAURANT IN PHILLIPSBURG STARTING AT 10AM. ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE WHENEVER YOU CAN ... MORE IMPORTANTLY INVITE THOSE WHO MAYBE SEEKING JESUS!
- ✦ WE HAVE A "MEET-UP" SITE ON THE WEB ... [HTTP://WWW.MEETUP.COM/THURSDAY-MORNING-BIBLE-STUDY-AT-PERKINS-IN-PHILLIPSBURG-NJ](http://www.meetup.com/Thursday-Morning-Bible-Study-at-Perkins-in-Phillipsburg-NJ) ... CHECK IT OUT!
- ✦ THERE IS A REVISED BUILDING CLEAN-UP AND RESPONSIBILITIES SCHEDULE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD. PLEASE REVIEW IT SO THAT YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR FAMILY IS SCHEDULED.