

## Washington church of Christ

27 Grand Avenue, Washington, NJ 07882

Phone: 201-546-1284

[washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com](http://washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com)

# The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 36

September 21, 2014

## Order of Services Sunday September 21, 2014

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Bob Celentano
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Bill Duryea
Prayer for the Cup	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Collection	Glenn Montgomery
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Morning Closing Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Evening Opening Prayer	Stan 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

### God's Final Message...

There are many books of great value in the world. These are eagerly sought by collectors, without regard for effort or expense. But there is one Volume of infinite value which contains information that is indispensable to every responsible person on earth. This is the New Testament ... the volume containing the words of Jesus ... the final message from God to man.

*In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. (Hebrews 1:1-2 NIV)*

This Book alone reveals God to man in all His great love and mercy. It can make one feel worthwhile as he reads of his value to God.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)*

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 NIV)*

It can stir one to respond to this great love by revealing his status in relation to God, and the instructions from God by which he may become acceptable in the sight of his Creator. Peter declared that a man purifies his soul through obedience to the truth (1 Peter 1:22), and Jesus stated that "God's Word is truth" (John 17:17).

"All things that pertain to life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3), and that will furnish the man of God "completely to all good works" (2 Timothy 3:17) are given to us in the New Testament.

When the final paragraph in the New Testament was given to us, we had our final message from God.

*"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. (Revelation 22:16-21 NIV)*

It is in this paragraph we can find Jesus' affirmation of the Divinity of the four things around which the New Testament scriptures are gathered ... it is almost as if Jesus is saying – "I have revealed to the complete will of my Father in the testament, and in conclusion I present the four man topics contained herein. Mark them well, and do not forget them."

In verse 16 Jesus affirms His Deity and His authority with these words...

*"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."*

Jesus is the central figure of the New Testament, and His Divinity is claimed by each inspired writer. He is the only begotten son of God, and the embodiment of the fullness of the Godhead (John 3:16; Colossians 2:9). He is the sole authority in religion today (Matthew 28:18), and the head of the body, the church (Ephesians 1:22). In addition to the testimony of New Testament writers Jesus cites two further proofs of His Divinity. First, He refers to His lineage – in His proclamation of *"I am the root and offspring of David"*.

In Matthew chapter one Christ is placed twenty-eight generations from David. Through David the lineage is traced to Abraham, *"in whom all nations would be blessed"* (Galatians 3:16). Jesus also calls on the prophets – *"I am the bright and morning star"*, (Numbers 24:17). As we read the prophets and observe the life of Christ, we see that each prophecy concerning Him was fulfilled in minute detail. (Zechariah 9:9 – Matthew 21:1-10; etc). Paul used this fact very effectively in preaching to King Agrippa causing him to say, *"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian"* (Acts 26:28).

In verse 17 Jesus affirms the divinity of His bride, the church, (Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 21:9, 10) ...

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.* (Revelation 22:17 KJV)

Who would dare say that the church is unessential when Jesus assigns it such a vital function? When the church is faithful in its role as *"the pillar and ground of the truth"* (1 Timothy 3:15), through *"holding forth the Word of life"* (Philippians 2:16) the Spirit and the bride are saying *"come"* to the spiritually lost of the world. In much the same manner a faithful wife would execute the temporal affairs of her departed husband, the bride of Christ must faithfully execute His business of *"seeking and saving that which is lost."* (Luke 19:10).

Verses 18 and 19 affix the stamp of Divine approval upon the Word which Jesus spoke ...

*I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.* (Revelation 22:18-19 NIV)

His law is the *"perfect law of liberty"* (James 1:25). That which is perfect cannot be altered, even slightly, without destroying its perfection. So, man is warned against either adding to, or taking from, the Word of Christ. The consequences of such actions be a presumptuous person show that God will allow no mortal to change that which He has spoken.

The summary of the things contained in God's final message is completed in verse 20 ...

*He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!* (Revelation 22:20 NKJV)

Jesus is coming again – this event will mark the end of the world (2 Peter 3:10). It will be judgment day for all nations (Matthew 25:32), when the good will be rewarded and the wicked eternally punished (Matthew 25:46). Many scriptures in the New Testament tell us

how we may prepare for this great day and live in hopeful expectancy such that we can echo the words of John – *Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

This, then, is the summary of the New Testament. The wonderful story of Jesus, of the church for which He died, to which men and women must be added upon being saved; the immutability of the Word of God; and the truth that Jesus will come again and receive us unto Himself.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ***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***

- ✧ REMEMBER OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING WITH JOHN ISAAC EDWARDS FROM TERRE HAUTE, IN ON OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup>. LET'S START INVITING OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO OUR GOSPEL MEETING.
- ✧ OUR NEXT THURSDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE ON OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 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.