

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

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October 5, 2014

Order of Services Sunday October 5, 2014

Song Leader	David Osinski
Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Cup	Scott Thomas
Prayer for the Collection	Matt Grimaldi
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Morning Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
Evening Opening Prayer	Arnold Thompson
Announcements	Derald Sanchez

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

Why?

In the first century it was a universal opinion among the Jews that calamities of all kinds were the effects of sin. While the Bible offers many examples of people experiencing sufferings because of their sins, the instance of the man born blind from birth (John 9:1-7), shows that this is not always the case, and created a quandary for the disciples, in that they could not determine where to place culpability.

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. (John 9:1-3 NKJV)

From Jesus' response we can conclude that bad things can happen to people through no fault of their own.

In our own personal lives we are faced with many experiences ... of which some we may struggle to understand. The true child of God will always remember, and find consolation, in the fact that God is in control and that He seeks our best interests.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28 NIV)

Yet, it is still not uncommon for even Christians to ponder the question of "why" when calamities befall us.

While there are many answers to this question, one may be found in the Apostles Paul's writing to the Corinthian brethren in 2 Corinthians chapter 12.

In this chapter Paul continues his self-defense against the charges brought against him in Corinth. Specifically it seems he focuses here on the charge that he had no claims to apostleship. In the previous chapters he had met these charges, and had shown that he had just cause to be bold toward them ... even at times boasting of his accomplishments.

He boasted, not for self-promotion but for God's glory, and he counteracts the boasts of his opponents by saying that he had received visions and revelations from the Lord. He modestly referred to himself by talking about a man in Christ who was privileged to ascend to the third heaven, that is, paradise. There he heard things that he was not

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

(2 Corinthians 12:-10 NKJV)

allowed to repeat. Thus, he was unable to boast about heavenly things. Instead he boasted about his weaknesses.

Throughout Paul's discourse on boasting, he has given the Lord glory and honor. His desire is to remain humble and to refrain from boasting about himself and his achievements. He knows that the privilege of experiencing celestial visions and revelations might result in pride. The temptation to elevate himself above his companions was real. The Lord intervened by giving Paul a thorn in his flesh. In this God allows Satan to send one of his angels to cause Paul physical discomfort ...

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. (2 Corinthians 12:7 NIV)

We are reminded of Job, who also was afflicted by Satan. It is fact that God set limits for Satan, who could do only what God allowed him to do. (Job 1:12; Job 2:6).

Three times Paul pleads with the Lord to remove his affliction

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NIV)

The answer he receives is that God's grace is sufficient for him, because God's power is perfected in Paul's weakness. Paul, accepting the Lord's response, exults in this infirmity.

Paul demonstrates here a recognition that pride can slip surreptitiously into the human soul and rule in such a manner that we are often unaware of its presence.

Complaints and continued pleas are a common reaction to a negative answer, but Paul does not express them. Instead he demonstrates gladness, because he is fully aware that divine grace will be more than sufficient for him to cope with his malady. He cheerfully endures his human frailty knowing that Christ functions within him...

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20 NIV)

Why does Paul boast in his weaknesses? Because he realizes that the weaker he is, the stronger the power of Christ works through him.

Jesus wants to use him as a messenger who comes not in his own strength but knows his complete dependence on the Lord.

I think that the large majority of those reading this article would be able to say that they have been, and are being, blessed abundantly by God.

How have we reacted to receiving these blessings?

Do we have elevated thoughts of ourselves with respect to others? (Luke 18:10-12)

Do we feel deserving of all God gives? Or do we attribute all to His Grace? (2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:8; 2 Timothy 1:9)

Are we able to look past the physical attributes of our sufferings, and see the providence of God working in our lives?

That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10 NIV)

Or ... is God working in our lives to help keep us humble and focused on Him?

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Bill Duryea's Parents ... 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 17TH – 19TH. LET'S START INVITING OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO OUR GOSPEL MEETING.
- ⤴ OUR NEXT THURSDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE ON OCTOBER 9ND 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.