

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 38

October 19, 2014

Order of Services Sunday October 19, 2014

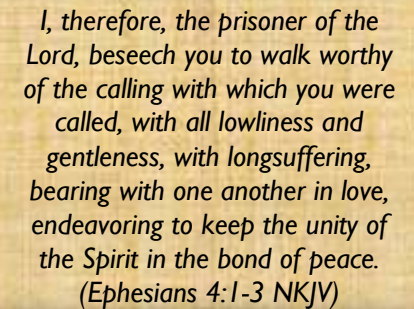
Song Leader	Bob James
Prayer	Bill Duryea
Preaching	John Isaac Edwards
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Ralph Ruggiero
Prayer for the Cup	Brian Jeffries
Prayer for the Collection	David Osinski
Assisting at the Table	Bob Celentano Jr.
Morning Closing Prayer	Scott Thomas
Evening Opening Prayer	Arnold 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

Walking Worthy of the Calling...

It seems that one of the Apostles Paul's favorite analogies was to compare the Christian life as a "walk". He states that Christians should "Walk worthy of our calling" (Ephesians 4:1) ... that we should "walk in love" (Ephesians 5:2) ... that we should "walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8) ... and that we should "walk ... not as fools but as wise" (Ephesians 5:15).



*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
(Ephesians 4:1-3 NKJV)*

And, while translations that render "calling", as in "to walk worthy of the **calling** with which you were called", I tend to like the KJV, which renders the text as "to walk worthy of the **vocation** wherewith ye are called." The Encarta Dictionary defines "vocation" as: somebody's work, job, or profession, especially a type of work demanding special commitment. This stresses the permanency of our calling. It is not temporary ... something we commit to today, but which fades or grows faint tomorrow. We are engaged for life. This is our vocation.

Associated with my secular job I once had the responsibility for measuring the quality of a product. An axiom was used that said "You can't improve what you can't measure". Obviously, metrics were an integral part of this quality management process. It seems that Paul in our text defines metrics for determining whether Christians are walking worthy of our calling.

Humility - "with all lowliness" (Ephesians 4:2). Before Jesus, humility was seen as a dishonorable quality. Yet, in His life on earth He personified the true meaning of the word. It has been said that we live in a time where the madness for status is epidemic. In walking worthy of our calling we must heed the Jesus' word admonitions...

*"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven"
(Mathew_18:3-4, KJV).*

Conversion and humility belong together, and to those who are converted and become humble belong are walking according to the Christian's calling.

Gentleness - "*and gentleness*" (Ephesians 4:2). This word is often translated "**meekness**" and is a similar word to humility. It has nothing to do with weakness. Rather, it has been called "strength that knows who it is". It is submission in relation to others for the sake of Christ.

The argument that arose among the disciples in the Upper Room at the Last Supper was over which of them was the greatest (Luke 9:46). Isn't it true that most of the time when there is trouble over who is the greatest, the real issues is over who is the least? Most of us know we will not be the greatest, but we do not want to be least. Meekness is a willingness to be least if obedience to God requires it.

Longsuffering - "*with longsuffering*" (Ephesians 4:2). This word is often translated "patience" as in this case in the ESV and NIV. It describes a spirit, of never giving in or never giving up; a spirit of persistence which sees defeat as a temporary, not final, setback, thus not to be deterred by discouragement and disappointment.

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV)

Another more characteristic meaning is literally "a long temper" and has to do with relationships. Paul gives this advice...

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. (Romans 12:17-18 NIV)

Love – "*bearing with one another in love*" (Ephesians 4:2). The fourth "sign" of our vocation is love. Humility, meekness, and patience are all dimensions of love. Love is the inclusive Christian virtue. But more than a virtue, it is the dynamic that helps us keep going on our Christian walk.

Peace - "*endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*" (Ephesians 4:3 NKJV). The "signs" of our Christian vocation that Paul insisted on result in peace. In fact, he made his case for them here because he is talking about Christian "oneness" or unity. Without humility, meekness, longsuffering, and love there can be no real unity.

Each of the previous four "signs" depends upon getting **self** out of the center, and that is what unity is dependent upon. That is also what makes for peace. Within a unified group, every member must be willing to give up his own self-interest for the common good. As long as my feelings, my prestige, my interests are the things that matter, there can be no peace. But humble, meek, patient, loving people have mastered the "**my**," and are committed to the "**our**."

Our Prayer List...

For Spiritual Responsiveness – Those studying with us in the Thursday morning Perkin's Study ... All of our wayward members

For Physical Healing – Bill Duryea's Parents ... Ray Thompson ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... Antonio Ruggiero

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

- ▲ ALL ARE INVITED TO THE SANCHEZ HOME TODAY AFTER MORNING SERVICES FOR A POT-LUCK LUNCH.
- ▲ BROTHER EDWARDS' LESSONS WILL BE ON THE WEBSITE NEXT WEEK. LET'S ALL USE THEM IN OUR EVANGELISTIC EFFORTS!
- ▲ AREA GOSPEL MEETINGS...
 - WALLINGFORD CT – OCT 17TH – 22ND, WITH DAVID MAXSON.
 - BOSTON MA – OCT 25TH, WITH JUSTIN DOBBS & DAN KOEN.
 - BETHLEHEM PA – NOV 7TH – 9TH. DETAILS TO COME.
 - PISCATAWAY NJ – NOV 14TH – 16TH, WITH LOWELL SALLEE.
- ▲ OUR NEXT THURSDAY MORNING STUDY WILL BE ON OCTOBER 23RD 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!
- ▲ DON'T FORGET TO JOIN OUR "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!