

## Washington church of Christ

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# The Washington Messenger

Volume 3 – Number 43

November 23, 2014

## Order of Services Sunday November 23, 2014

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Tom Dolan
Prayer for the Cup	Glenn Montgomery
Prayer for the Collection	Scott Thomas
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Morning Closing Prayer	Bill Duryea
Evening Opening Prayer	Bob Celentano
Announcements	Matt Grimaldi

## 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

## When Will Jesus Return?

Predictions about the end of the world and the coming of Christ are not unique to our time. In every age there have been those who interpret current events and passages of scripture such that they advocate knowing the specific timing of Christ's return. The matters concerning the end times are called eschatology, from the Greek word *eschaton*, or "last things."

In similar context, the wise man Solomon said ...

*That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV)*

The Apostle Paul addressed an occurrence of this situation in Thessalonica where there were those who had concluded that Jesus would surely come most any day. These were people apparently stirring up all kinds of excitement and causing other Christians to angst over whether they had missed the event altogether.

Paul's opening words (1 Thessalonians 5:1) are a reprimand. "You have no need that I should write to you" seems to have been said with a groan of annoyance. To emphasize his distress, he continues, "you yourselves

*But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-3 NKJV)*

*know perfectly... ."* I read these words as being analogous to those of a troubled parent addressing their child with a ... "How many times do I have to tell you?"

There's only one thing for sure that can be said about the timing of the coming of Christ. It will be like *"a thief in the night."* This analogy does not associate the Lord to a thief, but is only intended to emphasize once and for all that no one can know when He will come.

One of the amazing things about the purveyors of prophetic schemes is their flagrant disobedience to the Scriptures and to Jesus Himself. In the clearest way Jesus said ...

*"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"* (Mark 13:32-37 NKJV)

After His resurrection, the disciples asked Him the recurrent question about the time of the restoration of the kingdom ... the Day of the Lord. Again his emphatic answer ...

*And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. (Acts 1:7 NKJV)*

Paul is simply reinforcing Jesus' strong warnings against making predictions and forecasts regarding His coming. To do so is to place oneself in clear disobedience to Jesus Himself.

His coming will be a total surprise to those who are forever doing business as usual, saying, *"Peace and safety!"* (1 Thessalonians 5:3). The reference here seems to be to those who place all of their eggs in this world's basket and live as though this world is all there is, and they need not the kingdom of God or His coming. To live in expectation of His coming does not mean that it will not surprise us. As Christians we

should live with the certainty that it will surprise us ... for it is not given to us to know, and we're told not to speculate.

Thus there are two extremes to be avoided. One is the arrogance of pretending to have some special knowledge about the future and His coming, even if it claims to be based upon the Bible.

The other is to live apart from the continuing awareness that on the day of God's choosing ... ***Jesus will come!***

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### ***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*** – Ellen Jinks - Bill Duryea's Parents ... Arnold and 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***

- ▲ THERE WILL BE A MEN'S AT 5PM. THE FOCUS WILL OUR 2015 FINANCIAL BUDGET.
- ▲ REMEMBER OUR TUESDAY EVENING *PANERA BREAD* AND THURSDAY MORNING *PERKIN'S MEET-UP STUDIES*. 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!