

Washington church of Christ

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The Washington Messenger

Volume 4 – Number 1

January 4, 2015

Order of Services

Sunday January 4, 2015

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

Things That Will Not Change In 2015...

If there is a time of the year when we typically are moved to consider changing aspects of our lives for the better, it's this time of year. And, we are currently living in a seemingly "ever changing" world. But it's good for us to be reminded of some things that don't change ... that **won't** change ... the things that pertain to God, His Word and His Will for our lives.

So please let me consider again this year the thoughts shared last January.

We don't know what good or ill 2015 might bring. In this we see the infinite wisdom of God in that it is better for us not to know all the things that the future has in store. Such knowledge would surely influence, and most likely handicap, us in the fulfilling of our daily duties and obligations.

Into the lives of some might come great sorrow and loss ... others might experience illness and disease. And still others may finish this earthly course. Advance knowledge of these events might strike terror in the hearts of some, and eliminate all earthly joy until the tragedy occurred.

But, if God sees fit to spare the world through 2015, the year will be remembered fondly by some as a year of restored health, financial gain, and outstanding personal achievement. And it is equally beneficial that we don't have future knowledge of these events as well, for such knowledge would fill some with so much joy that they might neglect responsibilities and opportunities, and in so doing fail to achieve these accomplishments.

It is better to have things as they are ... our time is in God's hands ... *For we walk by faith, not by sight.* (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJV)

In as much as we are all part of a rapidly changing environment, and, from our perspective, each of our lives is filled with a fair amount of uncertainty, it should be noted that there are some things which will not change during 2015.

Our great nation, and even the world itself, will not stay the same throughout 2015. We can't even promise that they will continue to exist through the entire year. Everything we can see with our eyes has a stamp of time, and will one day pass away:

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10 NKJV)

Since everything material is transitory, we must look to the spiritual realm for those things which are certain to remain unchanged in the years to come.

The "one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:6 NKJV), must be at the head of the list of things permanent. It is certain that God will live, and be with His people through 2015, and every year, and in the eternity beyond.

Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalms 90:2 NKJV)

The eternal God is our refuge (Deuteronomy 33:27 NKJV), and He will sustain those who trust in Him, through every trial and temptation of life. *He will not suffer them to be tempted above that they are able to bear.* (1 Corinthians 10:13) *He will keep in perfect peace, those whose mind is stayed on Him.* (Isaiah 26:3)

God Himself reminds us ...

"For I am the LORD, I do not change;" (Malachi 3:6)

This attribute of God is both encouragement and admonition, for while it assures man that God's love and concern for humanity will not cease, it warns that He will continue to punish the wrongdoer.

Another thing that will outlive 2015, and all of the years ahead, is the Word of God.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. (Matthew 24:35 NKJV)

Jesus warns all men ...

"the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." (John 12:48 NKJV)

Many today contend that the Bible is obsolete and not relevant to this day and time. Some religious leaders have taken away the Bible as the authority for their followers, and have created creeds and other writings to govern their groups ... despite warnings from God ...

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19 NKJV)

... unauthorized doctrines and practices are rampant in the religious world. Nevertheless, *the Word of the Lord endureth forever.*" (1 Peter 1:25) At the Judgment those who create, and participate, in them will find that God's Word is in fact immutable, indestructible, and dependable. Every promise and every punishment will be fulfilled there.

Before the Kingdom of God was established, Jesus stated that the seed of the Kingdom is the eternal Word of God. (Luke 8:11). Throughout the Bible we have the assurance that the Kingdom which would grow from this seed is as durable as the eternal God and His Word. In the days of the Old Testament, Daniel pictured it as the...

"kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." (Daniel 2:44 NKJV)

In Acts chapter 1 we read of the ascension of Christ in the clouds of heaven, (Acts 1:9-11), and in the next chapter we read of the church, the Kingdom of God, being established. The *"saints and faithful brethren of Colosse"* were been *"translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son"* (Colossians 1:2, 13 KJV) when Paul wrote to them in the first century. They had also been *"called in one body"* (Colossians 3:15), and were told that *"Christ is the head of the body, the church."* (Colossians 1:18). The church, or body of Christ, is that Kingdom which will never be destroyed. Jesus used the terms *"My church"*, and *"the Kingdom of Heaven"* interchangeably in Matthew chapter 16, verses 18 and 19.

Since all earthly kingdoms will be destroyed, and only one Kingdom will remain, it is important that man diligently strive to be a part of that everlasting Kingdom. Those who entered the Kingdom on the date of its establishment heard the gospel preached, believed it so sincerely that they asked, *"What shall we do?"*, and were told to *"repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of sins."* (Acts 2:36-38).

Do you want to be in the Kingdom that will stand forever?

Then obey God in accordance with His Word.

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 ... Lee Redd ... Bill Duryea's Parents ... Mary Jinks ... Kathy Syracuse (Fair Lawn)

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 BUSINESS MEETING TODAY AT 4PM
- ▲ OUR NEXT PERKIN'S THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY WILL BE JANUARY 8TH 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!