

Washington church of Christ

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washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, January 27, 2013

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Scott Thomas
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Stan Thompson
Prayer for the Cup	Glenn Montgomery
Prayer for the Collection	Bill Duryea
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
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

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“Nevertheless at Thy word...”

In Luke chapter 5 we can read that Peter, the brothers James and John, and their father Zebedee, had just finished a night of fishing, and were cleaning their fishing nets. Jesus saw their two boats and asked Peter to cast his boat a little distance from the shore. Using Peter's boat as a pulpit, Jesus began to teach the multitude of people who had gathered there at the shore.

When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." (Luke 5:4-5 NKJV)

At the conclusion of Jesus' teaching, He turned to Peter and made a request that some there might have deemed illogical ... even to Peter it may have seemed improbable that they would catch anything after having toiled in vain all night, yet he was willing to trust the word of Jesus and make the trial.

This was a remarkable instance of "faith." Peter, as it appears, knew little then of Jesus. He was not yet chosen to be an apostle. Jesus came to these fishermen almost a stranger, an unknown, and yet at His command Peter resolved to make another trial, and go once more out for fish.

The application here is probably pretty obvious.

How many times in our lives do we allow our own reasoning and our own logic to be the basis for whether we obey or disobey one of God's commands?

In the Garden of Eden, Eve chose to follow her own logic and reasoning rather than obey God.

"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate."

(Genesis 3:6)

Again, the applications we can make are many ... but let's consider *forgiveness*:

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

This passage is often used, and rightly so, to present in a general sense the vast superiority of God's thoughts and ways compared to our thoughts and ways.

Therefore, we should not seek to rationalize a commandment of God, or subject it to our analysis to determine whether or not we will obey it.

At the same time this passage seems to be a continuing thought to the previous two verses;

"Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7)

The context seems to say that God wants His people to come to Him, and when we do He will *have mercy* on us and abundantly *pardon* us ... and ... that God's thoughts and ways relative to mercy and pardon are far superior to ours.

It is a sobering, and at the same time an awesome, feeling to know that God wants to pardon us of our sins ... and that He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross to make our redemption possible.

However, many times our thoughts and ways relative to forgiveness are different than those of God. We at times struggle to forgive as God commands because we don't recognize or understand the benefit.

We may harbor malice; seek revenge, and be slow to forgive an injury. Not so with God. He harbors no malice, has no desire of revenge, and He is not reluctant to forgive.

If we forgive once, we may be slow to forgive a second time, and still more reluctant to forgive a third time, and if the offence is often repeated we may refuse to forgive altogether. Not so with God. No matter how often we have violated His law, He forgives!

When we, through our own logic and reasoning, struggle with the command to forgive, the recognition of the superiority of God's thoughts and ways over our thoughts and ways should motivate us to obey Him.

In our original text Peter obeyed Jesus' command and his faith was rewarded. God will reward our demonstrated faith in Him.

When Abraham had grown old God promised him a son. Paul writes this of Abraham's response;

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness." (Romans 4:20-22)

Again, there may be times when we through our own wisdom struggle with a command of God. But, our recognition of the superiority of God's wisdom over our wisdom should motivate us to obey Him.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33)

... Bob James

Our Prayer List...

▲ Georgia DeLorenzo ... Doug Focht ... Everett Guyton ... Donna Banghart ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... our young people here at Washington ... our young people away at college ... the men and women in military service ... leaders of our nation ... leaders of our congregation ... our congregation.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." (1 John 5:14-15 NIV)

ITEMS OF NOTE...

- ▲ There will be a Men's Bible Study on Thursday, January 31th, starting at 7:00pm.
- ▲ The next Men's Business Meeting is scheduled for February 3rd, starting at 4:00pm. All men are encouraged to review the previous meeting's minutes that are posted on the website prior to the meeting.
- ▲ The weekly topics and reading assignments for the Bible Studies are posted on the home page of our website and the lesson material can be printed from the Member's Shared Files section.
- ▲ Remember, as a part of our Bible School program each family should strive to have a review each week of the material discussed in our classes.
- ▲ Anyone desiring a family or an individual Bible Study should contact me (Bob James). I keep Tuesdays and Thursdays open for these studies.

Coming Events - Home & Away...

- ▲ It's getting closer ... that is our Spring 2013 Gospel Meeting with Tommy Peeler from FC. The dates are March 10th - 13th ... that's Sunday - Wednesday. Please plan your 2013 spring vacations and travels around that date if at all possible.
- ▲ Additionally, our Fall 2013 Gospel Meeting is scheduled for October 11th - 13th. Joe Works from the Fair Lawn, NJ congregation will be preaching.