

Washington church of Christ

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washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com

Order of Services

Sunday, March 10, 2013

Song Leader	Bob James
Prayer	Bill Duryea
Preaching	Tommy Peeler
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	Pete Ferencze
Prayer for the Cup	Bob Wydro
Prayer for the Collection	Stan Thompson
Assisting at the Table	Gennaro Ruggiero
Morning Closing Prayer	Bob Celentano
Evening Closing Prayer	Lee Redd
Announcements	Brian Jeffries

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

The Washington Messenger

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A Decision about Our Decisions...

Reading through the book of Joel, the third, and final, chapter of the book seems to serve as a reminder that decisions do matter ... and that God makes decisions often based on our decisions.

The only thing more important than our decisions is what God decides about them.

Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. (Joel 3:11-12 NKJV)

The people of Joel's day faced the decision whether to heed the prophet's call to repent and return to the Lord. The nations faced decisions about how to treat Judah as well as other neighbors. Their decisions determined how they would fare in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:12), which could be called the "Valley of Decision."

We are faced with many decisions in this life ... some seemingly simple ... others not so. And, it can be that at times we all may have observed others struggling with what seems to be a simple decision, such as choosing a meal from a fast-foods menu, or picking out a pair of shoes from a shoe store, and we, in a humorous way, may wonder that if they are struggling with this simple decision, how they could make a decision on something "really" important.

Deciding what's really important is the issue of life. Sometimes the quantity and magnitude of the choices before us immobilize us from making *any* decisions. But we have all discovered that making no decision is in itself a decision ... and that often it proves to be the wrong decision.

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. (Ecclesiastes 12:13 NKJV)

These words from the Wiseman Solomon beg a question that may help put our decisions into perspective ... "If we were to die today, would we have accomplished the purpose for which we were born?"

The two most important decisions we can make involve our conversion and our daily commitment.

Our eternal destiny will be determined on the basis of our decision to accept Christ and obey His conditions for our salvation ... but that decision will have little meaning unless we decide to daily *seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness* (Matthew 6:33). The poet and hymn writer Richard Baxter is said to have prayed, "Lord, what Thou wilt, where Thou wilt, when Thou wilt."

When we fail to make the Mathew 6:33 "decision", many of our days will end with regret over the poor decisions we've made because of our insubordination, or just plain insensitivity, to the guidance that was given to us through God's Word.

Then a crucial decision stares us in the face ... will we justify ourselves or seek and accept the Lord's forgiveness for the unguided, willful choices we may have made

God through His Word guides us through our decision making in every area of life ... and on that day, according to our decisions, He will pronounce the ultimate decision.

We are accountable to Him for our stewardship of our lives, our material wealth, and every other blessing He has so richly given.

Should God call us before the Judgment, who will we leave behind living a spiritual life because we made the decision to introduce them to Christ? ... or who will we leave behind living a more abundant life because we made the decision to care?

Every hour, we make decisions on whether or not to be to others what Christ has been to us. The Lord deemed that loving was so essential that He made love inextricable from our acceptable service to Him.

"And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do If you love Me, keep My commandments.... This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (John 14:13-15; John 15:12).

The Christian life is not just a walk in the garden alone. And so, He will make a decision about the decisions we have made as part of the church ... the decisions that make for peace, edification and growth or the unproductive decisions we faithlessly tolerated.

Add to all those decisions the ones we have made about our communities and nation, and we realize that there is a great deal the Lord will decide about our decisions.

Our decisions do matter. They affect our destiny, and they influence others.

Does not this truth make the exhortation of Moses timelessly relevant?

You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name ... You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may be well with you ..."

(Deuteronomy 6:13, 17-18 NKJV)

...Bob

Our Prayer List...

▲ Georgia DeLorenzo ... Doug Focht ... Jon 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.

▲ Mary DeGrado, Bob and Jan's sister-in-law, transitioned from this
life on this past Friday evening. Family Visitation is scheduled for
Monday, March 11th, @ 7PM and the Funeral Services for
Tuesday, March 12th, @ 10AM. Both events will be at the Fair
Lawn church Building

"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)

EVENTS AND NOTES

LET'S NOT FORSAKE OUR GOSPEL THIS WEEK ... ATTEND EACH NIGHT
... MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY @ 7:30PM.

THE JEFFRIES WILL HOST A POT-LUCK LUNCH AFTER SERVICES TODAY
IN THEIR HOME.

THERE WILL BE A TEACHERS MEETING ON NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH
@ 5PM. THE NEW BIBLE SCHOOL TERM STARTS SUNDAY, MARCH 20TH.

WE WILL NOT HAVE OUR THURSDAY MORNING STUDY THIS WEEK DUE TO
THE GOSPEL MEETING. THE STUDY START AGAIN NEXT THURSDAY,
MARCH 21ST.

ANYONE DESIRING A FAMILY OR AN INDIVIDUAL BIBLE STUDY PLEASE
CONTACT ME (BOB JAMES).