

# Washington church of Christ

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[washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com](http://washingtonnjchurchofchrist.com)

## Order of Services

### Sunday, December 23, 2012

Song Leader	Derald Sanchez
Prayer	Bob Celentano
Preaching	Bob James
Lord's Supper	
Prayer for the Bread	David Osinski
Prayer for the Cup	Bob Wydro
Prayer for the Collection	Brian Jeffries
Assisting at the Table	Bob DeGrado
Closing Prayer	Ralph Ruggiero
Announcements	Matt Grimaldi

### Coming Events - Home & Away...

- ▲ Though it's still a few months away, we are planning our Spring 2013 Gospel Meeting with Tommy Peeler from FC. The dates are March 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> ... 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. Joe Works from the Fair Lawn, NJ congregation will be preaching.

## 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

# The Washington Messenger

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**December 23, 2012**

## "It Doesn't Make Sense!"

This often used phrase may leave a lot to be desired grammatically, but the person who speaks candidly never finds it deficient when used in conversation. The phrase always expresses a definite rejection of some idea or philosophy by the person who uses it. It means that the idea is not compatible with his, or her, judgment or understanding. The use of this phrase is typically by those who have problems accepting a commandment of truth of God, and its objective is to justify their position.

This phrase also proves beneficial to those who believe in the Bible and strive to live by "EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS FROM THE MOUTH OF GOD." (Matthew 4:4 NKJV)

When Paul wrote, "Test all things; hold fast what is good. (1 Thessalonians 5:21 NKJV), there is implied a command to reject all that doesn't make sense when tested against God's Word. That which is illogical, or even absurd, from the standpoint of human reasoning cannot possibly be true in such an important field as religion. Jesus made truth indispensable when He said, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32 NKJV)

Many things are taught, and believed, in religion today which the Bible condemns, often times in strong terms, than when examined from the standpoint of logic just don't make sense!

The salvation of man has been the subject of utmost importance since the fall of Adam. During the Patriarchal and Mosaic ages the concern of God for man can be seen in His statement:

*For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, Until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, And her salvation as a lamp that burns. (Isaiah 62:1 NKJV)*

The sacrifices which God required during those dispensations could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:3, 4), and therefore His "only begotten Son" became to be "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world." (John 1:29). Jesus came to die for us, because there was no other way for man to be redeemed.

Mark pictures the agony of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He went to Calvary:

*He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will." (Mark 14:35-36 NKJV)*

Both the necessity of the death of Christ, and God's desire for man to have the only available way of atonement are pictured when we read:

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. (Hebrews 2:9 NKJV)*

Through His obedience to the will of God, Jesus *“became the author of eternal salvation to all those that obey Him.”* (Hebrews 5:9). With all authority now His, Jesus commanded His apostles:

*And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16 NKJV)*

On the first opportunity Peter, the apostle to whom Jesus had given the keys to the Kingdom, told this good news to a great multitude of Jews who had already indicated their faith in Christ through an inquiry. Recognizing that they believed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Peter told them:

*Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38 NKJV)*

Every case of conversion in the New Testament demonstrates that men were told only one way to obtain salvation from sin. This does make sense, because we have seen that only one sacrifice is adequate to remove sin, and that there was only one way for God to redeem man, so He did not spare His own Son despite the fervent prayer of Jesus to be relieved from the suffering of the cross.

The previous scriptures in this article have shown that ONE Savior died for EVERY MAN, and He commanded the ONE gospel to be preached to EVERY CREATURE in ALL THE WORLD.

It just doesn't make sense for men to say that there are alternative ways for man to be saved from sin, when no alternate way was possible to make atonement for the sins of mankind.

The Bible condemns *“faith alone”* as dead (James 2:17), and further states that the prayer of one not seeking to follow God was an abomination (Proverbs 28:9). Likewise, any other alternative to God's plan for the salvation of man, as revealed in His Word, just doesn't make sense, since they imply that God will recognize a departure from His Will which was not relaxed for His own Son!

Those who listen as God says...

*“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. (Isaiah 1:18 NKJV)*

... and meet the conditions of His plan for salvation are added to the church (Acts 2:47). This knowledge that the Savior adds the saved to the church, the family of God here on earth, enables us to see the essential nature of this relationship as expressed in the Scriptures.

The elders of the church at Ephesus were commanded:

*Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28 NKJV)*

And further, it is written:

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; (Ephesians 5:25 KJV)*

It doesn't make sense for a man to proclaim that Christ is the Savior and only hope for a lost world, and then say that the church for which He died, and to which He adds the saved is not essential.

The latitude which men desire in religion was dispelled by Jesus when He said:

*“ ... I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6 RV)*

Since to go to the Father is the ultimate blessing and reward for being a Christian, the course outlined by Jesus is the one most logical:

*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: (Matthew 7:24 NKJV)*

To profess that we want to go to heaven, and to refuse to follow the only Way there, just doesn't make sense.

... **Bob James**

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### ***Our Prayer List...***

- ▲ Everett Guyton ... Lee Redd ... Donna Banghart ... Glenn Montgomery's father ... Mary Celentano ... Georgia DeLorenzo ... 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 .
- ▲ As we have entered the holiday season we will have many of our members, family, and loved ones traveling. Let's all keep them in our prayers.

*“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...***

- ▲ 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.
- ▲ The Winter II - 2012 Bible School period starts on Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ▲ Anyone desiring a family or an individual Bible Study should contact me (Bob James). I keep Tuesdays and Thursdays open for these studies.