

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 20

2008

## Quit Doing Nothing

The flamboyant evangelist, Dr. Sam Jones, was well known in some circles for his "Quittin' Meetings." During his revivals he gave people a special opportunity to confess their sins and repent. Many quit swearing, quit gossiping, quit drinking, quit smoking, etc. He asked one woman what she planned to quit, and she replied, "I ain't been doing nothing, and I am going to quit doing that!"

Assuming she was true to her word, that was a worthy change. Think what great works most churches could accomplish if about two-thirds of the members would "quit doing nothing."

Yes, I know. The illustration led to an exaggeration. Two-thirds of the members are not "doing nothing." Even those who sleep through the worship are absorbing sound waves, and that makes it easier on the speaker. I learned, long ago, not to expect every called-out person to be all that the Lord says they should be; but I hope and pray I will never give up trying to bring about this condition. When reality becomes cynicism we are done. Aren't you glad the Lord did not give up on you? The Lord was not blinded to the reality of a sinful world when he died for those sins. He must have known that many for whom He died would 'do nothing' about it.

Some brethren "do nothing" because they have been conditioned to think the church does it all — an erroneous institutional concept of church. Some equate the Lord's work with public service, and think they have no talent for that. Some excuse themselves with the fear they may do something wrong. And some "tried once, but no one paid any attention to me." In all these, we are too much concerned with what people think of us, instead of acting in faith and with a

view to pleasing the Lord.

Somehow we must reawaken the concept of individual and direct relationship of each saint to Christ. The "priesthood of believers" must be re-established in our thinking. I must know that regardless of what others do, or do not do; regardless of popularity or opposition, of affluence or famine; I must serve my Master in all good conscience (Rom. 14:4-12). ✠ Robert F. Turner



## “This Trade” Is “In Danger”

*“And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: ‘Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship’” (Acts 19:23-27).*

Due to the effective preaching of the apostle Paul, the silversmiths of Ephesus feared their trade — crafting shrines of the goddess Diana — was in danger. Paul didn't bring suit against the silversmith trade union in court. He didn't campaign for office on the platform of shutting down the idolatry business. He never lobbied governing officials to impose restrictive ordinances against the temple of Diana. Nor did he launch an official boycott against the industry. According to Demetrius, *“This Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.”* Through evangelism, he won the hearts of the people for Christ, so that this craft was driven to disrepute through simple lack of interest.

There are many industries now in business, which the governing authorities would do well to shut down (Romans 13:1-4; 1 Peter 2:13-14), and there is nothing inappropriate about discouraging sin in society (Proverbs 14:34). But regardless of whether or not laws are imposed to restrict immoral behavior, it is the duty of godly men and

women to persuade people to turn away from such. May our preaching endanger the following occupations.

Divorce lawyers should be in very short supply *“For the Lord God of Israel says that He hates divorce”* (Malachi 1:16). Jesus explained that divorce separates what God has joined (Matthew 19:4-6). The only just cause for divorce is fornication (Matthew 19:9); otherwise, a marriage should remain intact. In order to save marriages, husbands must learn to love their wives sacrificially (Ephesians 5:25-29), trust them (Proverbs 31:11), honor them (1 Peter 3:7), understand them (1 Peter 3:7), and never resent them (Colossians 3:19). Wives should be taught to love their husbands (Titus 2:4), obey them (Titus 2:5), respect them (Ephesians 5:22-24), and avoid quarrels (Proverbs 21:9, 19). When husbands and wives treat one another with such love as this, divorce lawyers will go out of business.

Abortion providers ought to be unemployed because *“the Lord hates... hands that shed innocent blood”* (Proverbs 6:16-17), holding accountable those who harm the unborn (Exodus 21:22-25). In order to save children from murder, mothers must overcome the lack of natural affection (Romans 1:31) modern feminism has imposed on them. Women should learn to love their children (Titus 2:5) and regard the fruit of the womb as a reward (Psalm 127:3). When women are instilled with a sense of awe for the amazing work God does in creating life (Jeremiah 1:4-5; Psalm 139:1, 13-16), and a sense of joy for bringing life into the world (John 16:21), abortion providers will have no clients.

Pornographers deserve to go bankrupt because they reveal what knowledge demands should be hidden (Genesis 3:1-11). They promote sexual lust (Matthew 5:28), and often do so through direct acts of adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lewdness (Galatians 5:19). These smut peddlers will remain in business until people resolve to do as David did when he declared, *“I will set nothing wicked before my eyes”* (Psalm 101:3), and as Job did when he asked, *“I have made a covenant with my eyes; Why then should I look upon a young woman?”* (Job 31:1). Only when self-control is exercised (Galatians 5:23) will the skin business close down.

The gaming industry, consisting of state lotteries throughout the country, tribal casinos, and most businesses in Nevada including

stores and restaurants that house slot machines, neighborhood casinos, and the major tourist dependent casinos on the Strip, would all close down if people would take to heart the warning of the apostle Paul: *“Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”* (1 Timothy 6:9-10). Instead of a love for worldly wealth, people should be motivated to store up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21). When greed is expelled from people’s hearts, casinos will close for lack of customers.

The alcoholic beverage industry, including breweries, distilleries, liquor stores, and saloons would shut down permanently if their patrons understood that drunkenness is a *“work of the flesh”* that stands in the way of heaven (Galatians 5:21). If people could be persuaded to choose the Spirit over wine (Ephesians 5:19), this industry would collapse.

Everyone needs to work in order to supply the needs of this life (2 Thessalonians 3:10), but far more important is the work that must be done to obtain everlasting life (John 6:27). Therefore, careers must be chosen carefully, in consideration of God’s will.

✍ Bryan Matthew Dockens

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <h2><b>Belleville church of Christ</b></h2> <p>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258<br/><a href="http://www.bellevillechurch.net">www.bellevillechurch.net</a></p> |                                       |
| <b>Schedule of Services</b>   | <b>Elders</b>                         |
| Sun. Bible Study... 9:30 a.m.   | Charles Carpenter... (317) 839-3873   |
| Sun. Morning Worship... 10:30 a.m.  | James Hahn. . . . . (317) 745-1507    |
| Sun. Evening Worship. . . . . 5:00 p.m.   |                                       |
| Wed. Bible Study... 7:00 p.m.   |                                       |
| <b>Evangelist</b>   | <b>Deacons</b>                        |
| James Hahn. . . . . (317) 745-1507  | Leon Nevins . . . . . (317) 272-2966  |
|   | Don Perry. . . . . (765) 676-5825     |
|   | Alvin Stanley. . . . . (317) 831-3514 |
|   | Mike Thomas. . . . . (317) 539-2699   |