

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 17

2008

## A Simple “Thank You” Is Needed !

In I Corinthians 14: 16-17, we have a description of one who should be able to say “Amen” at the giving of “thanks”. This passage tells of one who is speaking in a tongue, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that the unlearned was unable to say “amen” at the giving of “thanks” because he did not understand what was being said.

I am constantly troubled today by another circumstance where we are unable to simply say “amen” at the giving of “thanks”, because the inspired instruction about the giving of “thanks” is not being followed. Jesus instructed us by His example, which is recorded in the following scriptures: Matthew 26:26-28 - “... *Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it; and He gave to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And He took a cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins.*” Mark 14:22-24 - “... *He took bread, and when He had blessed, he brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take ye : this is my body. And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave to them : and they drank of it. And He said unto them, This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.*” Luke 22:17-20 - “*And He received a cup, and when He had given thanks, He said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves : for I say unto you, I shall not drink from henceforth of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And He took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and gave to them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. And the cup in like manner after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, even that*

*which is poured out for you.*”

After the establishment of the Kingdom, in 1 Corinthians 11:23-25, the Apostle Paul instructs us about the Lord’s Will as it pertains to the Lord’s Supper: “*For I received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said, This is my body, which is for you : this do in remembrance of me. In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood : this do, as often as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord’s death till he come.*”

In the light of the above instruction, why do we have brethren constantly offering prayer at the Lord’s table without saying “thanks” for the bread or the fruit of the vine? We may want to pray about other factors when leading prayer at the Lord’s table, but why do we pray without saying “thank You” for the bread and “thank You” for the fruit of the vine? When we fail to do that, then everyone else in the assembly cannot simply say “amen” at the giving of “thanks”, because “thanks” WAS NOT GIVEN! It then becomes necessary for every other Christian to say his or her own prayer of “thanks”, just as Jesus taught us to do!

Shouldn’t we be more careful, when an entire assembly is participating in our prayer? When the one praying fails to give “thanks”, then others are forced by conscience to say their own prayer of “thanks”. Wouldn’t it be far better for everyone to participate by simply saying “amen” at the giving of “thanks”? We have had teaching dealing with this matter on many occasions, but some brethren are not paying very careful attention to the seriousness of the situation! My sincere plea is that we go back and read these scriptures very carefully, and that we determine to pay very close attention to our prayers when we are asked to give “thanks” at the Lord’s Table! We must remember that our prayer is one in which the entire assembly is to participate. ✍️ Dennis L. Reed

**Editor's Note:** I commend the preceding article by brother Reed to you and hope that all the men who are called upon to "give thanks" when we are partaking of the Lord's Supper will remember to "give thanks" for the bread and the cup. Also, for those presiding at the

table, please ask those who will be leading us in prayer to give thanks; don't simply ask them to "say a prayer." (JH)



## Covering Sin

Sometime ago, two members of the U.S. House of Representatives were censured by their fellow representatives for improper sex acts committed three and ten years ago. After such a long time, likely both thought their sins were far behind them and they would never be found out.

This reminds us of a fault common to the nature of mankind. Throughout history, weak, stumbling mankind has deluded himself into thinking that if he can hide and cover up his sin, all will be well. Such is not the case. We may hide our sins from our fellow mortals, but - there is always God! In Numbers 32:23 it is written, "*Be sure your sin will find you out.*"

We are constantly hearing of crimes that were committed 10, 15 or even 20 years ago that are solved. Truly our mischief has a way of catching up with us. But, if we hide and even forget our sins there is the matter of "judgment to come."

Paul wrote, "*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Further, Jesus said, "*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be*" (Revelation 22:12).

And, Solomon wrote, "*For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil*" (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

We all desperately need to learn that the dark of night, deception or even the ability to forget sin does not remove sin. All sin is against God and God alone has the right to determine the terms of forgiveness.

To the non-Christian, He commands faith (Hebrews 11:6), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession of the deity of Jesus (Matthew

10:32) and baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

To the erring child of God He commands repentance (Acts 8:22), confession of sins (1 John 1:9-2:1), and prayer (Acts 8:22; James 5:16).

Truly, man must answer to God for his sins. They cannot be hid from the Almighty. But, if we will submit to God's terms, He is anxious to forgive. Remember, "*God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (John 3:16).

✠ Raymond Harris



## That Which I Cannot Lose

Several years ago I read an account that told of an early Christian about to be put to death by a Roman soldier. Upon noting that the Christian had a smile on his face, the soldier said, "Thou fool, I am about to put you to death and you smile?" The Christian quickly replied, "Kill me and you take from me that which I cannot keep and you give me that which I cannot lose." That's the hope Paul speaks of in Titus 2:13 – "*Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.*" We must be "*faithful unto death*" (Revelation 2:10) to have this hope.

✠ James Hahn

### **Belleville church of Christ**

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### **Schedule of Services**

Sun. Bible Study... 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. Morning Worship... 10:30 a.m.  
Sun. Evening Worship... 5:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study... 7:00 p.m.

#### **Elders**

Charles Carpenter... (317) 839-3873  
James Hahn... (317) 745-1507

#### **Deacons**

Leon Nevins... (317) 272-2966  
Don Perry... (765) 676-5825  
Alvin Stanley... (317) 831-3514  
Mike Thomas... (317) 539-2699

#### **Evangelist**

James Hahn... (317) 745-1507