

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 19

2008

## *MEETING BEGINS TODAY!*

Today is the first day of our meeting with Greg Gwin from Columbia, Tennessee. We are thankful for the presence of each and everyone who is here today and encourage you to listen carefully to the lessons presented by Greg. Greg is no stranger to most of us and we are confident that he will be presenting lessons true to God's word and will present time in a manner easily understood by all.

I encourage everyone to read the following two articles written by Greg and Dennis Reed as they impress upon our minds the fact that whatever God has commanded of us is for our good and that doing His will must have priority in our lives if we are to be accepted of Him. Realizing this, I hope every member has made his or her plans to be present at every meeting this week and that you have invited your friends and neighbors to attend with you. Let's make this a most wonderful and successful effort. (JH)



### *For Our Good Always"*

*"And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day" (Deut. 6:24).*

In his final words to the Israelites, Moses recounted the commands that God had given on Mt. Sinai. And, he urged them to realize that everything the Lord had commanded them to do was in their own best interest.

The subsequent history of Israel bears witness to the truthfulness

of Moses' statement. So long as they faithfully followed God's will, things went well for them. But, when they neglected their duty and turned away from His law, they always suffered awful consequences.

The statement that Moses made so many years ago is still true today. Some may ask, "Why did God command this?", or "What is the purpose of that?" The simple answer is that it is for OUR good.

God did not make the rules just because He wanted to "flex" His divine power. He didn't order us to do various things simply to test us or torment us. Instead, He established His law because He knows us. He created us. He knows what is best for us. And, He desires that everything go well for us.

Think about some of God's laws, and see that they are "for our good always." Consider His prohibitions against drunkenness, adultery, lying, stealing, murder, etc. By keeping from these evils we are insuring our own well-being. Meditate upon His commands to study, pray, love our spouses and children, treat others as we want to be treated, etc. Each of these – when fully obeyed – leads to happiness and joy in our lives.

God loves us. His commands are a real manifestation of that love. Let us show our love for Him by obeying His law faithfully.

*✍ Greg Gwin*



## **Brethren, And Establishing Priorities**

Every person has priorities in life, and they are often established and ranked on the basis of what we deem to be the most important and then down to the least important. Or we may also rank them on the basis of what is to be done first and down to what we should do, if and when time or motivation is available. But, how often do we give serious consideration to establishing and keeping priorities for our many "spiritual" responsibilities? The Scriptures do reveal to us that we must have a sober sense of priority when it comes to living a life which will be acceptable to the Lord. Jesus said, *"But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* (Matthew 6:33). Without any doubt or question, it must be obvious to every Christian that **"kingdom business"** is to be put **FIRST** in our life. It may be easy for us to "say" that we are truly doing that, but in reality, are we being totally honest with ourselves

when we express that sense of justification? Are we really looking at ourselves in the objective manner which we should, and also evaluating ourselves by looking into the perfect law of liberty? (James 1: 22-25). If we are measuring ourselves by ourselves, then we are without understanding! (II Corinthians 10: 12).

We are also told that we should **FIRST** take care of our own spiritual deficiencies so that we can see clearly to help others with their difficulties. *“Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me cast out the mote out of thine eye; and lo, the beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out **first** the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother’s eye.”* (Matthew 7: 4-5). The Word of God absolutely makes faithfulness and discipleship a matter of priority, *“And another of the disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me **first** to go and bury my father. But Jesus saith unto him, Follow me; and leave the dead to bury their own dead.* (Matthew 8: 21-22). An effort to make excuses will not change what God expects of us, *“And another also said, I will follow thee, Lord; but **first** suffer me to bid farewell to them that are at my house. But Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”* (Luke 9: 61-62).

Establishing and keeping our priorities can never be successful unless and until we make a careful examination of the cost of discipleship and determine that we will never shirk from “paying the price” which is required of us. *“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, doth not first sit down and count the cost, whether he have wherewith to complete it? Lest haply, when he hath laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all that behold begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”* (Luke 14: 28-30).

God most definitely has a priority set for us when we finish our journey upon this earth. *“For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of God: and if it begin **first** at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God? and if the righteous is scarcely saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?”* (I Peter 4: 17-18). God’s judgment will begin **FIRST** with us! Don’t you think that it might be wise for us to give some very sober and “God fearing” thought to establishing and respecting spiritual priorities in

our individual lives? To the brethren at Ephesus, the Lord’s admonition was for them to, *“Remember therefore whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the **first** works; or else I come to thee, and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent.”* (Revelation 2:5). We are wasting our time and energy when we try to play games with the Lord! You see, brethren, *“all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”* (Hebrews 4: 13). With Almighty God, priority is definitely “serious business”, and our love, respect, and obedience to the Lord had better be the beginning and finishing of everything which we do with our lives. *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* (Revelation 22:13).

✍ Dennis L. Reed



## ***“THEY SHOULD HAVE HEARD THAT”***

We often hear this statement made after presenting a lesson from God's word. Yes, I am sure there are many who could profit from lessons they were not present to hear, however each of us needs to heed the words spoken to Ezekiel as God was sending him to speak to the rebellious house of Israel. God told Ezekiel, *“hear what I say unto thee”* (Ezekiel 2:8). It is so easy for us to see what others need to hear and do but let **me** make sure **I** listen to what God would have **me** to do in faithful service to Him. (JH)

<h3><b>Belleville church of Christ</b></h3> <p>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258 <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