

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 7

2008

I Don't Feel Good!

This is a statement that is common to our vocabulary. It is frequently made, and so many times it is the truth. Most of us have aches and pains which keep us from feeling as good as we would like to feel. I suppose there are degrees of how well a person feels. Some individuals feel much worse on occasions than others. I recall on one occasion asking a class of individuals if there were those who could truthfully say that they felt good. One of those present raised her hand. How truly blessed that person was in being able to say that she felt good!

The statement, "I don't feel good", is made on occasions for an excuse in not performing certain tasks. It seems to be one of the favorites that members have for not being present at some of the worship services. The truthfulness of their statement is not being questioned! No one has a right to say that the person is not speaking the truth when saying, "I don't feel good". No one can actually say that they know how someone else feels. Paul's statement in 1 Corinthians 2:11 should be considered when we think of this: *"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."* It would appear that most of us do the things that we really desire to do. There are exceptions, but the things that lie within our capabilities; we make them a part of our lives. Our feelings do not prevent us from doing what we really love to do. When we say, "I don't feel good" and offer this as an excuse for not participating, is this something that we really love to do? There have been members who attend services at times when they really do not feel good. It is obvious that they do not feel good! Yet, they are there because they

love God and want to worship him. Again, I recall speaking to an individual regarding her health before the service began. Her reply was much like this: "I'm certainly not feeling good, but I feel as good here as I would at home and here is where I desire to be." Her statement has stuck with me through the years and her convictions were of the nature that make a church strong.

It is quite possible that some who excuse their absence by saying, "I don't feel good" never use such sentiment to keep them from going on a vacation when the time comes. Let some planned sporting event or some family gathering that folks enjoy be on the agenda. Are they usually neglected because one is not feeling good? Do we not carry our feelings with us and keep the appointments? How many who were not feeling good enough to be at service on Sunday absent themselves from their work on Monday? Yes, there are some, but others carry their aches and pains on with them to work on Monday. One party mentioned that the difference was that he was thinking of his much-needed payday and being faithful to his employer. In like manner we should be thinking about our faithfulness in pleasing God. This is more important than those things of a temporal nature that we have the tendency to exalt above the spiritual.

Some months ago, I read an article in which the author contended that some of the greatest things accomplished by man was done by those not feeling good. It went on to say that if they had waited for the good feelings, the feats would doubtlessly have never materialized. People void of good health kept on working and looking to the goal. They didn't let their feelings defeat them or keep them from reaching the goal that they had in mind. Think about the suffering and agony that Jesus experienced in dying for us. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* (Philippians 2:5-8) Jesus didn't let the suffering and horror of crucifixion keep him from doing the will of His Father. *"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."* (John 17:4) When we assemble and observe the Lord's supper, we are to do so in remembrance of Christ. We are to discern his body and his death for us. Yet, at times we say I won't

be there to commemorate His death, "I don't feel good". In comparison with what He has done for us, shouldn't we be ashamed to let our feelings keep us from doing what Christ would have us to do.

I can hear it now. Having read thus far, some will be prone to say that the author expects us to be at service even if the paramedics have to bring us. He is saying that IV tubes might be hanging from our bodies; nevertheless, we should be at worship. Such is not the theme of this article. Most people know this is not so, but some that excuse themselves by saying "I don't feel good" when they can do most everything else, might use such to cover their lack of spirituality. I don't particularly feel good, but I still was able to write this.

✍️ Bobby K. Thompson



"READ BY TITLE ONLY"

In his book, "Implications of Evolution," G. A. Kerkut, in commenting on books which are often quoted by individuals to "prove" their position, said, "interesting to note that many of these widely quoted books are read by title only." Two of the books he referred to were Darwin's "Origin of Species" and The Bible. I am convinced that his observation, especially in regards to the Bible, is correct. Just what does it mean to read a book "by title only?"

To read a book "by title only" means that one may appeal to that book as "proof" of what he is contending but what the book really says does not support his position at all. Many who claim to believe the Bible do not really study the Bible and do not know what is really taught therein. They read it "by title only."

For example, many, when talking to someone about what they believe on some subject or practice, will begin by saying, "The Bible says..." If you ask them where the Bible says what they have just quoted they will usually say they are not sure just where it can be found but they know it's there because, "I have read it." Many time the thing they are so sure of and "have read" is not even in the Bible.

Many statements have been repeated so often by those who claim to believe the Bible that many have been led to believe that these statements can actually be found in the Bible. For example, we constantly hear men saying that it doesn't really matter what you believe as long as you are sincere in that belief and truly love the Lord. Others will say that one

church is as good as another and that it doesn't make any difference as to which church you are a member. These positions cannot be found in the Bible but those who set forth these positions claim to believe the Bible and will "use" it to give credibility to their statements. By them the Bible is "read by title only."

We frequently hear statements made by individuals concerning the times in which we live, especially when we are in a time of war or various natural calamities have taken place. Some will comment about these "bad times" and then continue, "But the Bible does say..." and will then proceed to "quote" some reference to the conditions that will exist "before the end of time." When you examine these "quotes" you often learn that there is nothing in the Bible that even resembles their "quote" and if you do find some statement which does resemble their "quote" you find that it has no reference at all to the times in which we are living or to any sign that the end of time is near. Again, the Bible is "read by title only."

Peter tells us that we are to *"be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"* (1 Peter 3:15). To do this we must read the Bible and study it diligently. We must know what the Bible says. This cannot be done by just making reference to the Bible as a book and making a pious claim of believing the Bible. Much damage has been done by those who "quote" something "the Bible says" when in reality they are only quoting their own opinion or something they have received from some man. Simply because some man states that "the Bible says..." does not make it so. It is only true if you can open the Bible and find it written therein. Let us not be guilty of reading the Bible "by title only."

✍️ James Hahn

<h3>Belleville church of Christ</h3> <p>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258 www.bellevillechurch.net</p>	
Schedule of Services	Elders
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.	Deacons
	Leon Nevins... (317) 272-2966
Evangelist	Don Perry... (765) 676-5825
James Hahn... (317) 745-1507	Alvin Stanley... (317) 831-3514