

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 22

2009

## THE FULL COUNSEL OF GOD

In Acts 20 Paul told the elders of the church at Ephesus he was pure from the blood of all men because he had preached all the counsel of God.

I heard Billy Graham preach and much to the chagrin of my brethren I could say "amen" to 95 per cent of his sermon. He preached against lying, stealing, committing adultery. He preached on the home and how to be a good husband and wife and to rear your children. He never mentioned the work, organization, and worship of the church. He never mentioned instrumental music and related subjects. Mr. Graham will not stand condemned, so much for what he preached but **what he did not preach!**

Brethren, I am scared to death! Recently I have heard several of our young preachers and they all preached the same thing. They preached on the home and how to be a good husband and wife and how to rear your children. Kind friend, I have some news for you. The church did not go into apostasy because of bad husbands, it went into apostasy by polluting the work, organization and worship of the church! I asked a young preacher if he knew why the missionary society was unscriptural. He said, "I don't have the slightest idea." I then asked him if he knew why the sponsoring church was wrong. He said he knew it was wrong but did not know why. Brethren, remember the church is only one generation away from apostasy. A generation comes around every 30 years. When you wake up some morning and find the church in complete apoatasy remember it wasn't what they preached but what they didn't preach.

✍ Ward Hogland

## "I'm Too Busy for Church"

It is Sunday morning—time to assemble with the saints of our Lord. Believe it or not, for many, this is a moment of decision. There are so many things around the house calling your name—lawn mowing, repairing the thing-a-ma-jig, washing the car, etc. As all of these things flash through your mind, the Lord calls. You may actually find yourself asking, “Whose call do I heed?”

Do you decide on Sunday morning, or evening, or Wednesday evening, whether or not you are “going to church?” Do you find that chores around the house, fishing, hunting, watching sports, working, or other things, win out over the Lord? What a shameful predicament many place themselves in!

It is shameful because, some day, when the Lord returns again, you will have to explain to Him why you said, “I’m too busy for church.” It is written, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”* (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Though it is true that attending church is not the ‘end all’ of Christianity, it is nevertheless commanded (Hebrews 10:24-25). Any Christian who must ask himself at the appointed time if he is going to assemble with the saints needs to realize the dilapidated condition of his soul. For the convicted, faithful, zealous Christian, such an appointment is automatic! There is never a doubt, only the faithful fact that he will be there when the saints meet!

When one is too busy to go to church, what they really say is: “I’m too busy for my brethren (Hebrews 10:24-25)” and “I’m too busy for the Lord (Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 25:40, 45).” If one is too busy for these, he is too busy for heaven! The next time you find yourself thinking, “I’m too busy for church;” remember what that translates into—“I’m too busy for heaven!”

✍ Jonathan Perz



## HORRIBLENESS OF SIN

How do you view sin? What do you consider to be the worst thing about sin? I am sure these questions bring certain situations to mind.

It may be we think of the death of some innocent child or family as the result of some drunken driver causing a fatal accident. Or we may be thinking about the story we read in the newspaper about a little child dying as a result of child abuse from an evil parent. I

would be the first to acknowledge that the physical consequences of sin are often horrible, however not all sin has such physical consequences. In fact, many sins bring temporary pleasure, gain and enjoyment to the participant (see Hebrews 11:24-26). This fact should impress upon our mind that the real horribleness of sin is not the physical consequences (however devastating they may be) one may suffer.

David recognized the real horribleness of sin after he was guilty of taking another man's wife and, eventually, his life. There were many physical consequences of his sin, however, when David repented of his sins he makes no mention of any of the physical consequences of the sins. He said, *"Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight"* (Psalm 51:1-4). David recognized that the thing that is so horrible about sin is the fact that it is AGAINST GOD.

When the young man, Joseph, had been the victim of the envy and jealousy of his brothers and, as a slave in Egypt, was pressured by his master's wife to commit an act of immorality, said, *"Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"* (Genesis 39:8,9). Had Joseph committed this sin he would have violated his master's trust and, no doubt, would have suffered severe physical consequences. Or he may have avoided certain physical suffering (his later imprisonment because she lied on him) had he yielded. Joseph's number one concern was his relationship to God. He knew what each of us needs to understand; sin is AGAINST GOD.

Until we recognize this fact we will never truly repent of any sin. Paul was thankful the Corinthians learned this lesson. He had rebuked them for many sins, including their failure to deal with an immoral man in their midst (1 Corinthians 5). When he wrote the second letter to them they had corrected many of the things for which

Paul had rebuked them. What brought about this change? Paul said, *"Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."* (2 Corinthians 7:9,10).

A person may change his life for the better because he is truly sorry for what he has done. He may have been a drunkard and now suffers severe health problems. He may have committed some crime that resulted in his spending time in jail. Being sorry for having done the things that brought about such physical consequences and punishment, he may determine that he will never be guilty of drunkenness again or will never commit any crime that would result in his being imprisoned. This change in life may result in many improvements in his physical life and others may benefit from the change, however he may die a drunkard and guilty of the crimes he had committed in the past because he never truly repented of such.

Isaiah declared, *"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."* (Isaiah 59:1,2). This is what is so horrible about sin. It separates us from God. When we are truly sorry that we have acted against God and violated His will we will be motivated by that godly sorrow to repent.

✍ James Hahn

<b>Belleville church of Christ</b>	
5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258	
<a href="http://www.bellevillechurch.net">www.bellevillechurch.net</a>	
<b>Schedule of Services</b>	
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.
<b>Elders</b>	
Charles Carpenter....	(317) 839-3873
James Hahn. ....	(317) 745-1507
<b>Deacons</b>	
Leon Nevins . . . . .	(317) 272-2966
Don Perry. . . . .	(765) 676-5825
Alvin Stanley. . . . .	(317) 831-3514
<b>Evangelist</b>	
James Hahn. . . . .	(317) 745-1507