

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 8

2009

Editor's Note: The following article was written by a dear friend and brother in Christ. Levy served as an elder of the church in Hazelwood, Missouri during the eleven years I preached there. He loved the truth as much as anyone I have ever known. Not only was he a dedicated Christian but he was also a wonderful and successful medical doctor. The cause of Christ suffered a great loss when Levy died a short time after our moving from Hazelwood. I commend the article to you. (JH)



"SUNDAY-ITIS"

Amazing revelation! An inflammatory disease afflicting many who profess to be Christians. It is an illness that has been around for many years and if we do not discover a cure it will spread like an epidemic among God's own people.

You see, "itis" is a suffix which means an inflammatory disease or an inflammation affecting a certain organ of the body. For example, tonsillitis is an inflammation of the tonsils or appendicitis is an inflammation of the appendix. However "Sunday-itis" affects the mind or heart of those who suffer from it. This malady does not have any objective symptoms such as fever, headaches, pain, nausea, vomiting, etc. In fact, I think of it as a self proclaimed illness. The hearts and minds of those "suffering" from this illness are weak due to their own lack of desire and self-discipline. They are simply unwilling to put forth the needed effort to overcome their pseudo-itis symptoms.

This ailment, "Sunday-itis," has two major characteristics. First,

it appears suddenly on the Lord's day. Then, again suddenly, it mysteriously disappears the following day. What an astonishing disease! Self-cured in less than twenty-four hours!

May I sound a word of caution to those afflicted with this illness? Please read, study and obey Hebrews 10:25. Failure to obey the Lord's commandments will not only lead to a bad case of "Sunday-itis," but will also result in eternal condemnation.

✍️ *Levy Maravilla*



NOT GOOD IN DETACHED

Did you ever notice on various tickets or on many coupons, "***Not good if detached***"? The coupon or ticket was made of the same material as the rest of the ticket, printed with the same ink on the same press, and kept in the same office. But it was not good if detached. Its usefulness was dependent upon its relation to the rest of the ticket.

Of how much worth is a church member detached from the rest of the church? How much fruit can a branch have detached from the vine? How good is a hand detached from a body? A Christian is one who stays with the rest of the congregation. He cannot serve God acceptably apart from it. Did you ever notice how quickly a banana gets skinned after it leaves the bunch? All who profess to follow Christ are to stay near to the Lord and others who are striving to faithfully follow Christ. Peter followed afar off and denied his Master. We need closeness rather than detachment. Remember the admonition from the Hebrew writer: "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*" (Hebrews 10:25).

✍️ *Bobby Thompson*



YOU ARE A SERVANT

Yes, each and every one of us is a servant. Many resent the thought of being considered a servant. In fact, some refuse to obey the gospel because, as they say, "I don't want anyone telling me what I have to do." This was the attitude of the self-righteous Jews when Jesus told them "*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples*

indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31,32). Their reply was, "We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin" John 8:34.

The apostle Paul expressed it like this: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16). The person who rejects Christ and refuses to obey the gospel may not like for anyone to tell him what to do but, whether he realizes it or not, he is still a servant (really a slave) to sin and this is the worst bondage of all.

Paul makes it very clear that the servant receives the reward of his service. In Romans 6:23 he tells us that the "wages of sin is death." These Romans had been servants of sin however they had "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18).

What about you? Whom or what are you serving? If you are serving sin it leads to eternal condemnation (Rom. 6:16,23). However, you can obey from the heart the same gospel the Romans had obeyed and become servants of righteousness. Paul said they had been "buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Have you obeyed from the heart as these obeyed or are you still a servant of sin? Yes, you are either a servant of sin or you are a servant of righteousness. Which is it? ✍ James Hahn



"MASONRY – A FALSE RELIGION"

As I travel to different parts of the country I am amazed at the number of individuals I find who claim to be members of the body of Christ and at the same time hold membership in (or condone such) the Masonic Lodge. In fact, a few years ago I had one who had served as "Worshipful Master" in a lodge in Kentucky take issue with

a lesson I preached on Masonry and insisted that one could be a faithful Christian and also be a dedicated member of the Lodge. Those who contend that a Christian can be a member of the Masonic Lodge and still believe and obey the Bible are either ignorant of the Bible or they or ignorant of Masonic teaching (or maybe both).

Albert Mackey, a prominent Masonic writer and author of "**The Encyclopedia of Free Masonry**", says, "*The Bible is used among Masons as a symbol of the will of God, however it may be expressed, and therefore, whatever to any people expresses that will may be used as a substitute for the Bible... Thus in a lodge consisting entirely of Jews, the Old Testament alone may be placed upon the altar, and Turkish Masons make use of the Koran. Whether it be the Gospels to the Christian, the Pentateuch to the Israelite, the Koran to the Mussulman, or the Vedas to the Brahmin, it everywhere Masonically conveys the same idea – that of the symbolism of Divine will revealed to man.*" Can you even imagine anyone claiming to believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God and being a part of an organization that accepts such a statement?

Some may prefer to "hide their heads in the sand" and not deal with the problem but the truth is that when one endorses the Masonic Lodge he is upholding a false religious system.

✍ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ
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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.	
Evangelist	Deacons
James Hahn. (317) 745-1507	Leon Nevins (317) 272-2966
	Don Perry. (765) 676-5825
	Alvin Stanley. (317) 831-3514