

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 20

2023

ARE YOU EXCELLENT?

Psalm 16:3, “But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight.” The saints are said to be the Lord’s “excellent ones” (NKJV). As children of God, we have a high standard! We are to be excellent. This is defined as: “of the highest or finest quality, exceptionally good.” The opposite of “excellent” is: “average, mediocre, usual, ordinary, just getting by.” Many people want to do the bare minimum, and still get by. This is not acceptable! Are you excellent?

GOD IS EXCELLENT.

“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness” (Ps.150:1-2). Just as God is excellent, He expects His people to be excellent!

“EXCEED” AND “ABOUND”.

“For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 5:20). Notice our righteousness must “exceed”. This means to abound, go above and beyond, excel, overflow, to make abundant or excellent. 1 Corinthians 15:58 tells us, “Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord....” We are to be an abounding people! This too means: “to overflow, to excel more than, to go above and beyond.” This is the exact opposite of average, just getting by, or

doing the bare minimum. The Corinthians were said to “Abound in everything” (2 Cor.8:7). They did not do the bare minimum, nor did they just get by. They excelled and went above and beyond in every thing! How about you?

GOD HAS ALWAYS REQUIRED THE BEST.

“But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you. And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein” (Lev. 22:20-21). “And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? And if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? Offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? Saith the LORD of hosts” (Mal. 1:8). In Genesis 4, God respected Abel’s offering but had not respect unto Cain’s. “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain...” (Heb. 11:4). God has never accepted anything less than the very best! “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1). Do you give your best? Do you exceed and abound in everything? Are you excellent? Sadly, so many, even members of the Lord’s church, who claim to be faithful, want to do the bare minimum and still expect to be accepted by God and go to heaven. They are like those in Malachi 1:13 who said, “Behold, what a weariness is it!” Is it a weariness to assemble with the saints faithfully? Is it a weariness to dress your best to show reverence? There is a reason David washed, anointed, and changed his apparel before going to worship the Lord (2 Sam. 12:20)! “God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him” (Ps. 89:7). Is it a weariness to give your best in every thing? “The righteous scarcely be saved...” (1 Pet. 4:18). You will not accidentally make it to heaven. You will not “Just get by” and make it to heaven. Either you will make it or you won’t. God expects us to be excellent and only accepts the very best! Do you accept average or are you excellent? It takes more than the bare minimum to be accepted by God!

Seek The Lord

In Isaiah 55:6, the inspired prophet encouraged the people to, “*Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.*” So, with that call to seek the Lord in mind, I too want to remind us of our need to be a people who diligently seek the Lord. However, one may ask...

How Do I Seek The Lord?

In Deuteronomy 4:29, Moses informed the children of Israel of how to seek the Lord when he said, “*...seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and soul.*” You see, just as Moses instructed the children of Israel to seek the Lord with all their heart and soul, we too need to likewise be one who seeks the Lord with all our heart and soul. Therefore, sincerely seek the Lord with thy all, and remember these words of the Lord, “*And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart*” (Jeremiah 29:13).

When Should I Seek The Lord?

We need to daily seek the Lord. We need to seek Him in the morning (Psalm 5:3, 88:13), we need to seek Him in the evening (Psalm 63:6), and the fact of the matter is, we need to be seeking Him all the time (Psalm 55:16-17). So, knowing that, be one who daily seeks the Lord and His strength (Psalm 104:5) and remember, it is good to draw near to God (Psalm 73:28). Therefore, my friend, never forget, “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*” (James 4:8).

Why Should I Seek The Lord?

We need to have a fervent desire to diligently seek the Lord our God, because the Lord said to the house of Israel, “*Seek Me and live*” (Amos 5:4). Also, the prophet Zephaniah declared, “*Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the Lord’s anger*” (Zephaniah 2:3). You see, the point is, it is certainly in our best interest to seek the Lord. Therefore, be one who seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33), and always put the Lord first in your life (Luke 14:26-33).

Friend, it is time to seek the Lord (Hosea 10:12). Knowing that, may we all be one who earnestly seeks the Lord while He may be found (Isaiah 55:6), remembering that if you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever (1 Chronicles 28:9).

✍ Brad Phillips

God’s Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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