

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 17

2023

## Some Urgent Needs In The Lord's Church Today

The word “urgent” is a word often used to denote “a situation requiring immediate action or attention.” Now, did you know that there are some urgent needs (i.e. things that require our immediate action or attention) in the Lord’s church today? Some urgent needs in the church today are:

### **The Church Today Needs More Members Being What God Would Have Them To Be and Less Who Play The Hypocrite.**

Sadly, there are some members of the church today who like Peter, and some other’s in the first century, are guilty of playing the hypocrite (Galatians 2:11-13). However, just as Paul withstood Peter to his face, and rebuked him for his hypocrisy, some members of the church today likewise need to be rebuked for their hypocrisy, and they need to be reminded of the way that God would have them to be. Therefore, let’s all be reminded of the need to lay aside all hypocrisy (1 Peter 2:1), and of the need to be imitators of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Peter 2:21-22; 1 John 2:6). Let’s be reminded of the need to refrain from hypocritical judgment, and of the need to not overlook our own faults (Matthew 7:3-5). Let’s be reminded of the need to not be like those who honor the Lord with their lips, but their heart is far from Him (Matthew 15:7-8). Let’s all be reminded of the need for us to be what God would have us to be, and let’s not be mere pretenders, but rather let’s all abound more and more to walk to please God (1 Thessalonians 4:1-2).

### **The Church Today Needs More Preachers Preaching The Word of God In The Pulpit and Less Comedians, Philosophers, and Ear-Ticklers In The Pulpit.**

The church today needs more preachers in the pulpit today who just simply preach the word (2 Timothy 4:2)! You see, the church today is in need of men in the pulpit who do not shun to declare the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27), men who are not ashamed of the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16), men who only speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11), rather than men who take the pulpit to entertain, rather than men who take the pulpit to speak the theology of men, and rather than men who take the pulpit to tickle ears (2 Timothy 4:3-4). You see, I have noticed that there seems to be some preachers today who act like they are ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Now, this is not necessarily seen in the things that they are saying in the pulpit, but rather this can be seen in what they are not saying in the pulpit. Again, there is an urgent need in the church today for preachers who preach the word in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2), and those men who refuse or fail to do so, need to either get out, or be put out of the pulpit, remembering that the one thing that is worse than those who desire to have their ears tickled, is the one who is willing to do the tickling.

### **The Church Today Needs Many More Seed-Slingers and Less Mud-Slingers.**

When defined a “seed-slinger” refers to “one who actively goes about spreading the word of God to others.” A “mud-slinger” denotes “one who uses insults and false accusations with the aim to harm or damage the reputation of another.” Brethren, may we all recognize the urgent need for there to be more “seed-slingers” in the church today, and for the need for there to be no “mud-slingers” in the church. You see, the task of sowing the seed of the kingdom (Ref. Luke 8:5, 11) is so great that it should leave absolutely no time for the slinging of mud! Therefore, may we all be diligent in teaching others about the gospel (2 Timothy 2:24-26). May we all remember our duty to love one another (John 13:34-35; 1 Peter 4:8), and may we be mindful of the need to put away all evil speaking (1 Peter 2:1). Knowing that, never forget, whoever spreads slander is a fool (Proverbs 10:18), but he who wins souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30).

**The Church Today Needs More Members Who Are Actively Involved In The Local Work and Less Members Who Would Prefer That Someone Else Do Everything.**

My beloved brethren, we must not be lazy in our service to the Lord, but rather we must be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (Romans 12:11). Sadly, there are some members in the church today who are just flat out lazy in serving the Lord, and because of this they have the attitude that someone else can do what needs to be done, and they expect just that. However, may we all understand that each and every member of the church is needed and useful (1 Corinthians 12:12-22), and may we be mindful of the fact that if the church is going to function to its fullest potential, each and every member of the church is going to have to do their part (Ephesians 4:16). Once more, there is a need in the church today for more members to be actively involved. Therefore, may we all step up, pull our own weight, sacrifice our time, and be actively involved in the needs of the work of this local church, instead of being one who expects someone else to do it, being ever mindful of the need to always abound in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

**The Church Today Needs More Concern For Direction and Less Concern For Popularity.**

How sad it is to know that there are some brethren today who are willing to compromise the truth in order to be popular or large in number. However, make no mistake about it, the truth never changes, and we are to never compromise the truth, but rather we are to always seek to walk in the ways of the old path (Jeremiah 6:16), and we are to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3) no matter what! Now, although some brethren today are willing to compromise the truth in order to attract others, or in an attempt to be large in number and popular, may we never wavier for any reason, and let's always exert an intense effort in the defense of the gospel of Christ, remembering that there is an urgent need in the church today for more to have a concern for direction, rather than popularity. Therefore, may we never lose sight of the need to always abide in the doctrine of Christ, being ever mindful of the consequences if we do not (2 John 9), and let's never forget, direction matters, popularity does not (Ref. Matthew 7:13-14).

Yes, there are some urgent needs in the Lord's church today that require our immediate attention and action. So, what about you? Can you be counted on to be what God would have you to be? Can you be counted upon to do your part, and to always stand for the truth? Can you? If not, why not?

*✍ Brad Phillips*

**Mark Your Calender**

**Gospel Meeting: *October 8-13***

**Preacher: *Brandon Hathaway***

**Meeting Times: *Sunday at 9:30am, 10:30am, 4pm  
Monday-Friday at 7pm***

**Plan To Attend and Bring a Friend!**

**Belleville church of Christ**

*5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258*

**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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