

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

January 21

2024

THE HABITUAL FAULT-FINDER WITH HIS UNJUST CRITICISM

If you have lived very long in this world, there is one fact of life that you have learned by experience. That fact is that people will find fault no matter what you do! Fault-finding can become a bad habit which will change your whole outlook on life. It is a habit that is easily developed and hard to break. It does not take a lot of mentality or ability to be an habitual fault-finder.

We have found, by experience, that most of the time your most severe critics are those who do nothing, but they know how you ought to do everything! These people are never satisfied with anything that is done, and the reason is that they are more dissatisfied with themselves than anyone else! They do nothing, and many times are without the ability to do, so they try to soothe their own conscience by finding all the short-comings in others. These unjust critics in a congregation are of great hindrance to the work. They won't do the work themselves, and discourage those who will (and do) with their unjust criticism.

We are made to wonder sometimes how these people can worship God acceptably, as they are so busy during the worship finding all the mistakes the song leader, the one leading prayer, and the preacher make! They first pick the one who makes the announcements to pieces because his grammar was bad or he did

not speak loudly enough, or maybe he had a nervous habit. When the song leader starts the first song he gets it a little too high, and this is his "unpardonable sin". Then comes the prayer, and the brother is a little "long-winded" -- and this is just too much -- this man has just got to go! The preacher rises to preach and they wonder why he picked that subject -- they say that "it is not needed here" (they always know what is needed better than anybody). While they are upset with the preacher over the sermon, they begin to think about all his other faults and the mistakes he made during the past week; the bulletin he edited was not up to their high standard--he should have written it all himself and not reprinted articles by someone else! In the critic's mind the preacher does not have much to do anyway, and a good article can be written in fifteen minutes! The critic has forgotten that good sister Faithful died on Monday and the preacher was busy comforting the family and getting up a little something to say that would be fitting at her funeral; besides, several were sick and in the hospital who had to be visited; he also had to study for his Wednesday night lesson and begin to think about what he is going to preach on Sunday; and some personal work just had to be done; and Mr. Interested had to be baptized Tuesday night; and, you know, the preacher does have a family who has a right to some attention!

But the critic is not going to take all these things into consideration before he comes forth with his profound wisdom and criticism! To he who makes no mistakes and knows it all, everybody else should be perfect too! He just cannot stand human imperfection in his presence!

Brother or sister, examine your heart and ask yourself, "Am I guilty of some of the attitudes mentioned in this article?" If you are guilty, realize the sinfulness of such an attitude. Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." (Matt. 7: 1 - 2).

✍️ Donald Townsley

God Does Not Change

As most of us are aware, we live in an ever changing world. However, no matter how much the world we live in changes around us, we need to be ever mindful of the fact that our God is everlasting (Psalm 90:2), and He does not change (Malachi 3:6).

I remind us of this fact because I have recently heard some say in regard to the present times that we live in, “absolutely everything has changed.” Many are likewise proclaiming that “nothing will ever be the same” and they say, “life as we knew of it has changed forever.”

Now, I do understand that there have in recent years been many changes in our society concerning the way in which many now live their lives. Likewise, I know that social media these last few years, has certainly changed the way many live and communicate in this world today. I also realize that the price of fuel and groceries have certainly increased to prices never seen before, and I likewise understand that the way in which our society as a whole views God and His commandments have drastically changed for the worse. However, as the prophet Isaiah informed the children of Israel many years ago, we likewise need to remember that although some things change, and some become weary due to those changes, God, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not change and He neither faints nor is weary (Isaiah 40:28).

So, keep in mind, although we live in an ever changing world, God does not change. He does what He says (Numbers 23:19), and He means what He says (Hebrews 6:17-18). Therefore, no matter how much things seem to be changing around us, may we always fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13), may we always hold to God’s unchanging hand, and may we never forget, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning” (James 1:17).

✍ 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. (Romans 10:9-10)

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 to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:16).

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

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816