

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 18

2024

## A Commendable Church

In 1 Thessalonians 1, the apostle Paul commended the church in Thessalonica for the good example in which they were setting. So, knowing that, let's examine some of the characteristics of a commendable church.

### **A Commendable Church Will Be Receivers of The Word of God.**

Paul writes, *"And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction..."* (1 Thessalonians 1:6). Those in Thessalonica became followers of the Lord, they received the word of God, and they welcomed God's word as truth (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Therefore, the church in Thessalonica set a good example for other churches to likewise follow, and the truth is, we all need to receive with meekness the implanted word of God which is able to save our souls (James 1:21).

### **A Commendable Church Will Be Filled With Joy.**

We also read in 1 Thessalonians 1:6, about how the brethren in Thessalonica received the word with joy. When defined joy is, "a feeling of great pleasure and happiness." So, in other words the brethren at Thessalonica were happy to receive God's word, giving us another example to likewise follow. For, the fact of the matter is, Christians should be the happiest people in the world. Why? Well, because we have the hope of eternal life in heaven (Titus 1:2). Therefore let us all be filled with joy, never forgetting, *"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice"* (Philippians 4:4).

### **A Commendable Church Will Sound Out The Word of God.**

Paul wrote, *"For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place..."* (1 Thessalonians 1:8). Now, the brethren in Thessalonica did not necessarily preach the word of God in these areas, but rather the word about their joyful reception of God's word was reported to these areas, and was received. Brethren, we too need to sound out the word of God by being a good example to others in word. Therefore, as Paul instructed Timothy we likewise need to *"...be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (1 Timothy 4:12).

### **A Commendable Church Will Be Truly Converted to God.**

Paul, concerning the conversion of the Thessalonian's penned, *"...how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"* (1 Thessalonians 1:9). Here, Paul states that the brethren in Thessalonica were converted from idolatry to the worship of the one true living God. As Christians, we need to be truly committed to worshiping the one living and true God, and we need to keep these inspired words of the apostle Paul in mind, *"For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness"* (1 Thessalonians 4:7). Again, let us learn from the Thessalonian brethren, and let us truly be converted to God.

### **A Commendable Church Will Patiently Wait for Christ.**

In 1 Thessalonians 1:10, we read that the Thessalonian brethren were waiting for the return of Christ. Now, although He has not yet returned, He will! Therefore, we too, like the Thessalonian brethren, need to be patiently waiting for the return of Christ. For as the Hebrew writer revealed, He will appear a second time (Hebrews 9:28). So, knowing that Christ will someday come again, let us all take heed to these words of Jesus Himself, *"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming"* (Matthew 24:42).

Brethren, just as the church in Thessalonica was a commendable church, let us all do our part here in making this local church a commendable church!

✍️ Brad Phillips

## Apostasy

Though it is the religious conviction of many that once one is saved from sin by the blood of Christ it is then impossible for one to apostatize and be lost in hell, the Bible does not teach it. The Bible plainly teaches the possibility of a child of God, one saved by the grace of God, to so sin as to be lost.

Phillip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ to the people (Acts 8:5). The things Philip spake were agreed to by some (Acts 8:6). Philip preached Christ! He preached things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, and the people believed it. "When they believed what he preached, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:15, 16). The Samaritans, like the Corinthians (Acts 18:8), believed and were baptized. Who is prepared to say they were not saved?

However, in the city of Samaria lived a man who practiced sorcery, bewitching the people, whose name was Simon. His efforts failed in the presence of the truth preached by Philip. Simon knew he too must yield to the power of God that saves (Rom. 1:16, 17; 1 Cor. 1:21). Luke testifies, "Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized. . ." (Acts 8:13). Who shall judge Simon's action as that of an imposter? He did exactly what the others in Samaria had done at Philip's preaching. The Bible says he believed "also" and was baptized. "Also" translates the Greek kai, and is used in the New Testament as conjunctions, cumulative particles, adversatives, and introduction of the apodosis of a sentence. Here it takes the nature of an adverb; it makes something added to what has already been said. The conversion of the Samaritans as stated in verse twelve still holds good, and Luke says Simon did exactly what they had done!

But, later when Simon saw the disposition of the Holy Spirit by the apostles' hands, he "offered them money" in an effort to do likewise (Acts 8:18). Yes, a baptized believer attempting to traffic in sacred things! It was sinful; so sinful that Peter said unto him, "Thy money perish with thee .... thy heart is not right in the sight of God" (Acts 8:20, 21). He is then commanded to "Repent therefore of this wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity (Acts 8:22, 23). This is not a description of a saved man! So, the case of Simon proves the possibility of apostasy from the faith and the results of such a condition being lost.

*✍ Earl E. Robertson*

## 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](http://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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