

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 4

2024

When You Are Not Here, You Miss Out!

Have you ever been invited to be somewhere, but for some reason or another you failed to show up, and then someone later said to you, “You Missed Out?” You see, that’s what I think about when some of our brethren fail to take advantage of every opportunity to come together with us here. So, with that thought in mind, let’s consider some things that one misses out on when they are not here.

You Miss Out On An Opportunity To Express Your Love and Devotion To God.

Beloved, God desires for His people to express their fervent love and total devotion to Him (Ref. Deuteronomy 6:1-5; Matthew 22:37), and when one truly loves the Lord our God with their whole being, they will be one who always puts Him first in their life (Ref. Matthew 6:33), and they will demonstrate their total commitment and devotion to Him by putting Him above everything else in this world (Ref. 1 John 2:15). Remember that, and choose to be here every opportunity you have instead of choosing to go to the ball game, the golf course, or the lake, never forgetting, that by choosing to engage in those things of the world, instead of choosing to be here, you miss out on a great opportunity to express your love and devotion to God, which is much more important and worthwhile (Ref. 1 John 2:17).

You Miss Out On An Opportunity To Praise, To Worship, and To Glorify God.

Brethren, we should take advantage of every opportunity to come together to praise, to worship, and to glorify God, simply because of who He is (Ref. Acts 17:24-25). Knowing that, we need to continually praise Him (Ref. Psalm 71:6), we need to worship Him (Ref. Psalm 95:1-7; John 4:23-24), and we need to do whatever we do, all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). Therefore, brethren, take advantage of every opportunity to be here with the people of God, to praise, to worship, and to glorify our Almighty God,

remembering that when you are not here, you miss out on an opportunity to praise, to worship, and to glorify God.

You Miss Out On An Opportunity To Feed Upon The Word of God.

My friend, there is more to man than just the physical body, for there is also the soul (Ref. Matthew 10:28), and because of that, man must not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (Ref. Matthew 4:4). Therefore, take advantage of every opportunity to be here for Bible study periods, worship services, and for gospel meetings, so that you can feed upon the word of God, and grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). Never forgetting, when you are not here, you miss out on an opportunity to feed upon the word of God, and an opportunity to receive much needed spiritual nourishment.

You Miss Out On An Opportunity To Encourage and Edify Others.

We all need encouragement, and the Bible instructs us Christians to encourage and edify one another (Ref. Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 3:13, 10:24-25). However, when we fail to take advantage of every opportunity to come together we not only miss out on an opportunity to encourage and edify one another, but we can likewise, by our absence, become a discouragement to others who do take advantage of every opportunity to be here. Think about that, and do not be one who discourages others by your absence, but rather be here every opportunity you have, so that you can effectively fulfill the Bible’s instruction to encourage and edify one another, never forgetting, when you are not here, you miss out on a splendid opportunity to encourage and edify others.

You Miss Out On An Opportunity To Support The Work of This Local Church.

As a member of this local church, you have a responsibility to this local church, and your presence is needed in order for this local church to function to its fullest potential (Ref. Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-22; Ephesians 4:16). Simply put, my beloved brethren, you are needed, and when you are not here, you are missed, and your absence hinders the work of this local church. Therefore, do not choose to be somewhere else, when you can be here, knowing that you are needed to provide your part to the work of this local church, and that you are needed to help this local church be what God would have it to be, keeping in mind, when you are not here, you miss out on an opportunity to support the work of this local church, and an opportunity to do your part.

Once more, when you are not here, YOU MISS OUT!

✍️ Brad Phillips

Why Are You Here?

Why are you here? Have you ever really stopped to think about it? You decided to get up on a Sunday morning, change into your nicer clothes, and sit from one to two hours in a different looking building among people you only see a couple of times a week. All of this and it's your day off as well (for most anyway). Why are you here? The answer to this question is so important that it may very well indicate where you will spend eternity after this life is over. Could there be any more important question? Consider four possible answers:

“My wife or husband will be upset if I don't come.” If that's your answer we're glad that you're here but it says a lot. Does this mean that you feel you don't need to be here (other than for your spouse)? Or do you feel the Lord isn't concerned one way or the other? Perhaps you're not concerned how the Lord feels, one way or the other. Is this what the Lord wants from those who worship Him? Just a warm body filling up a space on the pew? Jesus said, “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24). Just being here doesn't “count” if you refuse to worship God in spirit.

“My parents make me come.” Many stop attending as soon as they have the choice. Young people, there are many things your parents make you do. Such things as going to school, doing your homework, practicing cleanliness, and brushing your teeth. Which of these will you stop doing once you have the choice? Do you really think you'll regret having a good education? How much more important are the spiritual values your parents are trying to instill in you? The Lord uses young hands and feet in His service as well as older hands and feet. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:12, “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.” The wisest man in the world said that we should “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, ‘I have no delight in them’” (Eccl. 12:1). Be busy in the Lord's work. You can make a difference.

“I'm here because God said I have to come.” In many respects this isn't a bad reason at all. We often do things just because God said so, even when we don't understand why. But what often accompanies this kind of reasoning is an attitude of doing only what I have to do. In other words, it isn't, “God, how much can I do?” It's, “God, how little can I do and still get by?” Many seem to think that as long as they partake of the Lord's Supper, they've met their “minimum weekly requirements” and are free to go wherever they please the rest of the week. Typically, these members never teach a class, visit the sick, talk to their neighbors about the Lord, or offer much encouragement in the work of the church. Why? They aren't here! God requires worship for a reason. He said through the apostle Paul, “And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near” (Heb. 10:24-25). Do you think God wants those who only go through a ritual of service to Him? Does God want children

whose main claim to being His child is that they're there for the Lord's Supper? Here's what God said to the children of Israel when they only “went through the motions” of worship to Him thinking that was all He wanted: “I hate, I reject your festivals, nor do I delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer up to Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them; And I will not even look at the peace offerings of your fatlings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; I will not even listen to the sound of your harps” (Amos 5:21-23). Serve God out of love from a pure heart.

“I'm here because I love the Lord.” I'm here because I'm a sinner and need a Savior. I'm here because of all the Lord has done for me. I'm here because I love my brethren and enjoy being together. I'm here because I like to worship God. I'm here because I need to be here! I need my brethren praying with me and for me. It lifts me up to sing praises to God. The Lord's Supper is so much more than juice and bread. It's a communion together of the body and blood of our Lord and Savior. God's Word should be sweeter than honey to us. Therefore, we enjoy studying from God's Book. And our Lord has blessed us in so many physical ways. Isn't it a blessing to be able to give back to Him? Then when it's time to leave, don't you feel better prepared to face the world? Perhaps our worship together helps to “disarm” Satan somewhat as we go about the rest of our week.

Be glad for the privilege of worship. Come because you love the Lord. Truly our God is the Most High, deserving all honor, glory, and worship. “I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so, shall I be saved from mine enemies” (2 Sam. 22:4). Now, why are you here?

✍ Kyle Campbell

Belleville church of Christ

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Website: 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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