

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 6

2024

## Why Study The Bible?

Sadly, many today seem to have very little Bible knowledge, and the reason for this is simply due to the fact that many are not taking the time to study the Bible. However, it is very important that we all make, and take, the time to study the Bible. Why? Well, we should study the Bible because...

### **The Bible Is The All Inspired Word of God.**

The apostle Paul declared, *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...”* (2 Timothy 3:16). Simply put, the all-inspired Scriptures are God breathed, and it has been said that the Bible is “the breath of God in print.” You see, God has revealed His will through the Holy Spirit (Ref. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12), and the various men who wrote the Bible, spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, as the apostle Peter confirmed when he wrote, *“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit”* (2 Peter 1:20-21). Therefore, we should study the Bible because it is the all inspired word of God, it is how God communicates His will to us, and as Paul said, it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

### **The Bible Is A Book of Truth.**

In Psalm 119:160, the inspired Psalmist while expressing his praise toward God penned, *“The entirety of Your word is truth, and*

*everyone of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”* You see, contrary to what some believe, the Bible (i.e. the all inspired word of God) is a book of truth. Even Jesus Christ, Himself, confirmed this fact, when He while praying to God the Father concerning His disciples prayed, *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth”* (John 17:17). So, you see, we should study the Bible because it is not a book of fiction, but rather it is a book of truth.

### **The Bible Reveals and Gives An Understanding of God’s Will.**

In Ephesians 5:17, Paul said, *“do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”* Once again, God has revealed His will to us through His word. Therefore, we must diligently study His word in order to understand His will. In Psalm 119:104-105, the Psalmist of old declared, *“Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* Friends, let’s diligently study the Bible because it is the source by which we may gain an understanding of God’s will (Ref. Ephesians 3:3-4).

### **The Bible Contains God’s Plan of Salvation For Mankind.**

One more reason for why we should study the Bible is because it contains God’s plan of salvation for mankind. In Romans 1:16, Paul says, *“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.”* My friend, the gospel of Christ is still this very day the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, and it has been said that the B-I-B-L-E reveals **“basic-instructions-before-leaving-earth.”** Therefore, hear the word of God and keep it (Luke 11:28), believe in Jesus Christ (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10), be baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27) for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38), and remain faithful to the Lord unto death (Revelation 2:10), so that you too can have the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began (Titus 1:2).

My friend, these are just a few reasons for why we should diligently study the Bible. So, do not neglect studying your Bible, but rather study to show thyself approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15).

✍️ Brad Phillips

## **BEFORE WE CRITICIZE....**

There are times when mistakes are made, and things need to be pointed out. And, unfortunately, we all know that offering criticism can sometimes make a bad situation even worse. Serious thought needs to go into what we will say. Maybe it would help if we would ask the following questions before offering criticism:

### **Why am I doing this?**

Do I really want to help this person, or am I just doing this to make myself feel better? Am I trying to improve the situation, or do I just want to say, "I told you so!?" What is my motive? "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Philippians 2:3-4). Regardless of what the world believes, we don't have the right to let off some steam at the expense of another. Criticism that is only going to make us feel better needs to be kept to ourselves.

### **Do I have a right to criticize?**

Was I available when this person could have used some help before? Can I sympathize with what they are going through? Can I offer some positive suggestions to go along with the criticism? Some people like to just sit on the sidelines and criticize the labors of others. Such people really have no right to criticize.

### **Have I examined myself?**

It is not right for me to give criticism that I am not willing to take. Jesus says that I must make sure that the log is out of my eye first, then I can offer to help my brother get the speck out of his eye (Matthew 7:3-5). Criticism is respected when it comes from a respectable person, but no one appreciates a hypocrite.

### **What will I say, and how will I say it?**

This is very important. I must choose my words very carefully. They have the power to build up or to destroy (Proverbs 12:18; 16:24). As Paul said, "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt" (Colossians 4:6). What we say, and the way we say it, will make all the difference in the world.

### **Will it glorify God?**

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Whose glory am I seeking? Am I saying something to help the cause of Christ or just to be heard? If it is just to be seen and heard by men, then truly I have my reward (Matthew 6:1-6).

*Heath Rogers*

## **Belleville church of Christ**

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

**Website: [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**

Brad Phillips ..... (765) 720-2816