

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

May 29

2011

The Day of The Lord Will Come

Much has been said and written in the past few days about the false prediction of Mr. Harold Camping that the world would end on May 21, 2011. Any good Bible student knew that a prediction of an event not even taught in the Bible could not be true. The Bible knows nothing of a rapture of saints while others are left here on earth. However, the Bible does declare, *“But the day of the Lord will come...”* (2 Peter 3:10).

Sadly, many believe that men like Mr. Camping are really declaring what the Bible teaches when they set forth their false predictions and when the predictions fail they assume the Bible to be false. It would be wonderful if we could get people as interested in a study of what the Bible really teaches as they are in these false teachers and their false predictions.

As noted above, Peter states, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up”* (2 Peter 3:10). The thief does not announce his coming nor does he set forth a time table that can be used by his victims to calculate the time of his arrival. Many passages emphasize the fact that no one knows when the Lord will return and this world will come to an end. Since we do not know when it will be we need to heed the words of Jesus when He said, *“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”* (Matthew 25:13).

Another sad result from the false predicting of men like Mr. Camping is that many will become like the scoffers Peter speaks of.

Since May 22nd came as all preceding days, some will say, as did the scoffers of Peter’s day, *“Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”* (2 Peter 3:4). Since Jesus has not yet returned many interpret that delay as slackness, however Peter points out that His delay is not due to slackness in keeping His promise but is a manifestation of His longsuffering and desire for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Is it possible that we, even as Christians, fall into a false sense of security by thinking that we have ample time and opportunity to prepare for that day. As someone has said, we must live each day as though it were our last for someday it will be. We sing the song, *“There’s A Great Day Coming.”* As the words of that song ask, *“Are You Ready?”*

Yes, the “day of the Lord will come” (2 Peter 3:10). God *“hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained.”* (Acts 17:31). And He *“hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”* The very fact that Jesus was raised from the dead is our assurance that this day will come. No, we do not know when it will be but we do know *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27). Don’t listen to false teachers like Mr. Camping but do be ready for that day.

✠ James Hahn



“You Hate Homosexuals”

A Wicked Accusation Against Christians!

“Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye when men shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12). The ungodly and immoral crowd who hold government offices are involved in passing legislation to designate it as a “hate crime” when you openly condemn the immorality of homosexual behavior. They are not as nearly concerned about your open condemnation of the immorality which is often involved in heterosexual behavior. So, we would like to

express, very openly and forcefully, the condemnation found in God's Word of any kind of immorality, both homosexual and heterosexual. We adamantly insist that our repeating what is found in the inspired scriptures is definitely a "hate" of that which is evil, but that it has nothing whatever to do with "hate" toward the individuals involved in this immoral behavior. If we are arrested under these laws, it will not be because we hate any individual, but simply because we hate evil just as much as God hates it, and we make it very clear that our standing for and preaching the Truth will not be controlled by wicked men who make these laws to justify their love of evil!

The heterosexual behavior of adultery or fornication, having sexual relations with the opposite sex who is not your husband or wife, consistent with what the scriptures designate as a marriage in God's sight, is openly condemned throughout the Word of God as being immoral and sinful. This behavior is wicked and evil! Please consider the following scriptures which clearly condemn this sexual immorality: (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7), (Colossians 3:5-6), (Ephesians 5:3-12), (Galatians 5:19-21), (2 Corinthians 12:21), (1 Corinthians 6:13-20), (1 Corinthians 5:1-13), (Matthew 19:3-9), (Matthew 5:27-32).

Homosexual behavior, having sexual relations with the same sex, is also fornication and is likewise condemned by the scriptures above. It is also specifically condemned in the following scriptures: (Jude 1:7-8), (Romans 1:24-32), (1 Timothy 1:9-10), (1 Corinthians 6:9-10), (Leviticus 18:22-23; 20:13, 16). We cannot uphold this corrupt behavior and we must be ready to speak out boldly in condemnation of such sinful conduct. It is almost unbelievable that our efforts to reach these lost souls is often designated as a "hate" of those whom we are trying to reach with the gospel. We would also note the fact that this behavior is often called "gay". My friends, the word gay has, throughout history, had a pure and fine meaning of joy, and it should never be associated with the corruption of immorality! I have tried my very best to encourage my friends and brethren not to degrade this word by associating it with this evil behavior!

Any kind of sexual immorality, heterosexual or homosexual, is evil, wicked, and sinful! We must hate this evil! (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22), (Romans 12:9), (Psalm 119:104), (Psalm 97:10).

Those who are involved in this sexual immorality, either

homosexual or heterosexual, have absolutely no hope of heaven or eternal life! Unless they repent and obey the Lord, they will spend eternity in the lake of fire! (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9), (Matthew 18:8-9), (Jude 1:7), (Revelation 20:11-15; 21:8).

How sad it is that so many choose to live in these evil and soul destroying lifestyles! And how sad it is that they would accuse God fearing men and women of having hatred because they have the courage to speak out in an effort to save these souls from the eternal punishment of hell. We sincerely hope that you are one of those who have the courage to speak out against all of these sinful behaviors!

✍️ Dennis L. Reed



Summer Bible Studies

Only a few more days until our Bible Study Series begins. Greg King will be teaching the auditorium class and the lessons will be dealing with God's plan for the home, church and nation. The dates are June 13-17 at 7:00 o'clock each evening. We invite all in this area to attend these classes and encourage every member here to invite your friends and neighbors to attend.

Belleville church of Christ

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www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study.	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship.	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship.	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study.	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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