

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 20

2017

Editor's Note: The following article was written by Leland Ping who will be doing the preaching in our upcoming meeting. Leland will be here September 17-22 and will be presenting a series of lessons on the Beatitudes spoken by Jesus in the sermon on the mount. Even though Leland presently lives in California he is no stranger to this area, having grown up here. (JH)



Going the Way of the Earth

On two occasions in scripture, the phrase, “Going the way of all the earth” is used in reference to a person preparing to cross from this life into eternity. Joshua used the phrase near the end of his life, shortly before his famous challenge to his people to “Choose” who they would serve (Joshua 23:14). And in the closing moments of David’s life, the great king told his son, Solomon, that his death was near with this same phrase (1 Kings 2:2).

Reading the statements of these two good men leads us to ponder what was on their minds as they saw their time on earth ending. And, this is one of those occasions wherein we don’t have to “really” wonder for the Holy Spirit has revealed to us exactly what they were thinking.

Joshua used his parting words to remind those who heard him to never forget the kindness of the Lord and that He had never, ever failed them. He reiterated that, with obedience to the Lord’s commands, great blessings would come. And, with disobedience to those same commands would come God’s anger (Joshua 23:15-16). The great leader went on to challenge the people to remember their pledge to serve the Lord and only Him. In fact, Joshua said to them that they were, “Witnesses against yourselves” (Joshua 24:2).

David closed out his life by challenging his son to make a similar choice and commitment to the Creator by saying, “Prove yourself a man” (1 Kings 2:2). To accomplish this task, Solomon’s father told him to be mindful of the Lord’s ways and statutes, reinforcing the timeless, biblical truth that with an adherence to the Lord’s commands comes His blessings and care.

Like Joshua and David, each of us will one day, “Go the way of the earth.” Of course, we are not granted the knowledge of when or how that will be. What we can do is to make sure that each day is one in which we live with the spirit of Joshua and David, being mindful of the power of our words.

When we depart from one another, even if not for eternity, it’s a fitting time for us to reflect on what we could say and what we would say for the final time to those that we care so much about. Perhaps the answer to such an inquiry would be different for different people. But for each of us as saints, it certainly must echo the thoughts of these two great men.

The best “parting advice” that any of us can give to others is to remind each other of the holy pledge we’ve made to serve God and Him alone. And, let us prove ourselves to be true, wholesome men and women of God by being ever mindful of His ways and statutes, dutifully following our Lord who has done more for us than we’ve ever deserved. Praise Be To God!

Leland Ping

Do We Need More Than The Bible?

Do you think we need something in addition to the Bible? Some seem to think so. How do I know this? Because in addition to the Bible there are many churches that have their own creed books that set forth the basic beliefs of their religion. There are churches that have created and follow catechisms, church manuals/disciplines, and supposed additional revelations from God. There are church leaders that regularly assemble for their councils and synods to decide their church's doctrine in regard to salvation, worship, and moral issues of the day. Why would any of this be necessary if all would simply be content to follow the Bible, nothing more and nothing less (1 Corinthians 4:6; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19)?

After all, the apostle Peter wrote that: *"as His divine power has given to us ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness"* (2 Peter 1:3). James said Christians are to hear and do all things contained in *"the perfect law of liberty"* (James 1:25). If it's "perfect" what else do we need? Paul penned: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and 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). Not all creed books, but all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God! Jude declared we are to *"contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"* (Jude 3). So, do we need more than the Bible? No, the Bible is all-sufficient, providing all that we need!

✍️ Jesse Flowers



Indictments of the Social Gospel

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL is a philosophy in religion that the church should concern itself with worldly problems rather than spiritual ones. It is more interested in ecology, biology, psychology and sociology than in theology. It is more concerned about preserving the whooping crane and alligator than about preaching Christ the emancipator. It spends more time fighting earthly pollution that

MAY damage the body than with fighting spiritual plagues that WILL certainly damn the soul.

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL is more interested in feeding the body than in nurturing the soul. Its goal is education, not salvation; recreation, not sanctification; fraternity, instead of eternity. It concerns itself with the "new morality" rather than with immortality; birth control rather than self-control; ministering to the "inner city" rather than seeking the heavenly city; slum clearance rather than with spiritual perseverance.

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL philosophy is more interested in helping men make a living than in helping them make a life. It is more concerned with civil rights than with spiritual fights; civil laws rather than spiritual flaws; revolution rather than revelation; civil disobedience rather than spiritual obedience; communism rather than faith, repentance and baptism.

THE SOCIAL GOSPEL is a lame duck spiritually because it is without the power to fulfill the lasting needs of the human race. It preaches Christ as a great social reformer, rather than as a Spiritual Savior. It limits His work to earthly benefits for mankind; and Paul said, *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable"* (1 Corinthians 15:19). Social 'Gospelism' can only leave man spiritually naked!

✍️ James P. Needham

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	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507