

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 17

2017

## Lying to God

Perhaps one of the most “common” sins that we each have to combat is that of lying. While most people don’t ever steal from a department store, rob a bank, or cheat on their wives, in part because we’re accustomed to thinking those sins are so “bad,” most of us will at some point in our lives choose to be dishonest. We might make ourselves feel better by arguing it was only a little, white lie or that we simply bent the truth. Christians MUST be reminded, however, that while we might “get away” with lying to other men, we’ll never get away with it when it comes to our eternal Creator.

In the Bible, we read about Ananias and his wife Sapphira who chose to lie to the apostles (Acts 5:1-2). Incidentally, it is important to note that their decision to lie was indeed a choice on their part. Since the beginning of time, men and women have worked hard to blame their dishonesty on the “requirement” to do so in order to not get in trouble and the like. Peter addressed this when he accurately pointed out that while the property was in the possession of the married couple, it was theirs to do with as they pleased (Acts 5:4). Yet, like many who allow themselves to be tempted by pride, these two individuals voluntarily chose to lie to Peter and the other apostles and thereby sealed their fate.

It’s interesting to note, however, that Peter quickly condemned their dishonesty but not by referencing the lie to him and his fellow apostles but rather the fact that Ananias had lied to God Himself!

Peter answered by saying, “You have not lied to men but to God” (Acts 5:4). This one simple statement should serve as a stark reminder that anytime we lie to someone else, we are lying to God. Perhaps the thought of doing something “so wrong” will serve as a powerful disincentive for acting so irresponsibly.

One other observation should be made. When we choose to be dishonest and then feel bad for it, that’s a good thing. We feel bad because we failed to be honest with our friends, broke the trust that had previously existed, and have given others cause to question our credibility and integrity. But we need to also give serious thought to the fact that we offend God when we lie. Think of it: God is personally bothered by our choice to practice dishonesty. It’s little wonder why the scriptures list those who lie as those who will inhabit the fires of hell (Revelation 21:8).

Followers of the most high God MUST resolve ourselves to be truthful, honest people. If we lie to others, we also lie to God. We cannot hide our dishonesty from Him. And we will give an answer for all the choices we make while living on this earth.

*Leland Ping*



## The Importance of Regular Attendance

In hopes of encouraging us all to attend services more regularly, let’s note some important reasons for why we should regularly attend services. Starting with, we should all regularly attend services in order...

### 1) To Worship God.

You see, as children of God, we are to worship God, and we are to give honor, praise, and reverence unto Him. Folks, all glory and honor belongs only to God, and in Psalm 29:2, David instructs, “*Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*” So, you see, my friends, we need to regularly attend worship services in order to give glory unto our one, true,

living, all powerful, and holy God. Therefore, may we all regularly attend services and offer our worship unto God, and may we all, like David, be glad to go into the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1).

## 2) To Obey God.

Ladies and gentleman, all Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16), and God's all-inspired word commands us to teach and admonish one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Colossians 3:16). However, how can we effectively teach and admonish one another, if we are not regularly attending services? Well, the answer to that question is, we can't. So, with that thought in mind, let's all strive to regularly attend services. Let's also not forget we are to give back to the Lord as we have prospered (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) and are to partake of the Lord's supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26) upon every first day of the week. You see, we are not to obey God just when it is convenient for us, but rather we are to obey God, as He has commanded us. Therefore, may we all fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

## 3) To Encourage Others.

Folks, we all need to be encouraged and edified, and in Hebrews 10:24-25, the Hebrew author wrote, *"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."* Friends, take heed to those words of the Hebrew writer, and regularly attend services so that you may stir up love and good works. For by doing so, we will be able to give the necessary encouragement and edification to one another that is needed (Hebrews 3:12-13).

## 4) To Build Up Our Faith.

Another profitable reason for regularly attending services is to build up our faith. You see, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17). In Acts 20:32, Paul wrote, *"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."* Ladies and gentleman, the word of God is able

to build one up. Therefore, regularly attend services and diligently continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).

## 5) To Put God First In Our Lives.

Are you putting first things first? You see, Jesus said, *"...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..."* (Matthew 6:33). Now notice what Jesus instructed, He instructed one to seek first, not second, not third, not fourth, but rather first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. My friends, God is to be first in our lives, and when one does not regularly attend services it is more than likely an indication that God is not first in ones life. Therefore, let us all always love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind (Matthew 22:37), and let's all demonstrate our love for the Lord by regularly attending all the services in which we possibly can.

Ladies and gentleman, I once heard a gospel preacher say, "I am not concerned about those who would be at services if they could be, but rather I am concerned about those who could be at services and choose not to be." How true, right? You see, there are unfortunately too many who choose to neglect attending services. However, hopefully we all will have a better understanding of the importance of regular attendance, and hopefully we will all become more diligent in our attendance.

✍️ Brad Phillips

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

### Evangelist

James Hahn ..... (317) 745-1507