

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 24

2017

## The Preaching of Paul

Anyone who proclaims the gospel would benefit greatly by simply imitating the preaching of Paul. So, with that thought in mind, let's examine the preaching of Paul, beginning with...

### 1) Paul Was Consistent In His Preaching.

It has been said, "truth is consistent with truth." However, there are some preachers today who are inconsistent when it comes to the preaching of the truth, and my friends, this should never be. You see, no matter what the circumstance is, preachers need to be consistent in preaching the truth, and in 1 Corinthians 4:17, Paul, writing to the saints in Corinth, penned, "...I have sent Timothy to you, my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church." Folks, Paul was consistent in his preaching, giving all preachers an example that needs to be followed.

### 2) Paul Preached The Whole Counsel of God.

In Acts 20:27, Paul, in exhorting the elders at Ephesus, said, "*For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.*" You see, Paul, unlike some preachers today, was not slack in preaching the instructions of God, for he, unlike some today, declared the whole counsel of God. Folks, it seems like there are some preachers today who are afraid to preach the whole counsel of God, and because of that, some are cowardly sugar-coating God's word. However, Paul was not afraid to proclaim the whole counsel of God, and if any man today is afraid to preach the whole counsel of God, he needs to quit

preaching.

### 3) Paul Was Not Ashamed To Preach The Gospel of Christ.

Have you noticed that there are some preachers today who act like they are ashamed to preach the gospel of Christ? You see, there are some preachers today, who would rather act like a comedian in the pulpit, and or tickle the ears of men, rather than proclaim the gospel of Christ. However, no preacher should ever be ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and in Romans 1:16, Paul informed, "*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 the Greek.*" Folks, the gospel of Christ is still today the power of God unto salvation, therefore may all preachers, like Paul, boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ.

### 4) Paul Did Not Preach To Please Men.

Another valuable lesson in which preachers can learn from Paul is, do not preach to please men. Friends, Paul did not preach to please men, and in Galatians 1:10, Paul writes, "*For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.*" Sadly, there are many preachers today who would rather preach to please men, rather than preach to please God. However, shame on any man who preaches to please men, rather than God. For all preachers, like Paul, need to refrain from preaching to please men.

### 5) Paul Preached With Simplicity.

The apostle Paul, unlike some preachers today, simply preached the gospel of Christ, and in 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, Paul declared, "*And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.*" You see, preaching must not be done of human wisdom, and it must be done in a way that can be understood. Therefore, may all preachers avoid "muddying the water" and may all preachers, like Paul, just simply proclaim the gospel of Christ.

### 6) Paul Was Humble In His Preaching.

Folks, sadly there are many arrogant gospel preachers today. However, Paul was not arrogant in his preaching, and in Acts 20:19,

Paul said, he served the Lord with all humility. Also in Acts 20:31, Paul in recounting his stay in Ephesus, said, "I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears." You see, humility is an attribute that all preachers need to strive to obtain and maintain. Therefore, just as Paul served the Lord with all humility, may all preachers likewise follow suit.

### 7) Paul Practiced What He Preached.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul, in writing to the Corinthians advised, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." Folks, not only did Paul preach Christ, but he also imitated Christ. Therefore, Paul practiced what he preached, or as some would say, Paul preached what he practiced. You see, in order for ones preaching to be effective, one must practice what he preaches. However, there are many today who do a lot of preaching but little practicing, and again, this should never be. For just as Paul imitated Christ, all preachers need to always strive to do the same.

Friends, the apostle Paul was certainly a preacher who is worthy of imitation. You see, Paul did not look at preaching as just a job and he did not do it for the money (Philippians 4:15-17), but rather Paul preached the gospel because he truly loved the Lord and he believed in God with all his heart (Acts 27:25). Folks, I hope and pray that all who proclaim the gospel of Christ today will likewise have the same attitude as Paul, and I hope all preachers will likewise strive to preach in like manner as Paul.

✍️ Brad Phillips



## Winning Last Place

We live in a society that is sports crazy. We love football and fishing, racing and wrestling, soccer and softball -- not to mention baseball, basketball and golf. Nearly all of us have had the experience of cheering for our team or favorite player to win, whether the contest was professional, college, high school or just the youth league team that our child or grandchild played on. And many of us have participated in sports ourselves. We've personally experienced "the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

From a spiritual perspective, sports are not necessarily a bad thing. According to the Bible, sports teach us important lessons about disciplining ourselves when

striving for a goal (1 Corinthians 9:24-27), playing by the rules (2 Timothy 2:5), and running with endurance (Hebrews 12:1). Obviously, we can allow sports to become a bad thing if we place too much importance on them or allow them to crowd out spiritual concerns. But sports can also impact us negatively in other ways. They can train us to be too competitive, self-seeking, and ambitious -- too concerned with winning at all costs.

In most sports competitions, everyone wants first place. But there are times in the life of every Christian when he should seek last place. In Mark 9:35, Jesus told the twelve apostles, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees because "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues" (Matthew 23:6). He told His disciples, "But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place . . ." (Luke 14:10).

The Bible reveals that we should be striving to win last place in our relationships with others!

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Philippians 2:3).

". . . Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."" (1 Peter 5:5).

". . . Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion." (Romans 12:16).

Here are some practical suggestions for winning last place. The next time that you disagree with a brother in an area of judgment or opinion, insist that your brother get his way. The next time that your wife or husband neglects to do a chore that merely benefits you, do it yourself. The next time they are looking for a volunteer at work to do some menial task, volunteer! Win last place!

✍️ Steve Klein

## Belleville church of Christ

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[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