

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 19

2017

When Was The Last Time?

Too often many of us get caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life, and by doing so we tend to neglect some of the more important things in life. So, I ask when was the last time you...

1) Stopped To Reflect Upon God's Beautiful Creation?

Ladies and gentlemen, contrary to the beliefs of some God is the creator of the world and of everything in it (Acts 17:24). You see, although God is a Spirit (John 4:24) His invisible attributes are clearly seen being understood by the things which He has made (Romans 1:20). Therefore, take some time to stop and reflect upon God's beautiful creation, and make some time to enjoy His magnificent work. My friends, do not be one who is too busy to enjoy the beauty of God's creation, but rather be one who takes the time to reflect upon the awesome creation of God.

2) Took Time To Pray?

Did you think to pray today? You see, prayer is the Christian's direct line to God, for it is the avenue we take to communicate with our Father in heaven. Folks, prayer is a spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3) and as Christians we have the confidence that God will hear and answer our prayers (1 John 5:14-15). However, there are many who would tell you that it has been awhile since they have addressed a prayer to our Father in heaven. Why? Well, sadly many use the excuse "I am too busy" or "I forgot to pray." Friends, we need to realize that communication (prayer) is vital to one's spiritual relationship with God. Therefore, always make and take time to pray

(Luke 18:1) and remember there is power in prayer (James 5:16).

3) Read Your Bible?

Have you read your Bible lately? If not, why not? You see, the Bible is the all inspired word of God, and it is profitable for and able to thoroughly complete men (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Folks, the Bible contains all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). So, in order to know those things we must take the time to study our Bibles, so that we can understand how to show ourselves approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15). Therefore, let's all strive to imitate the noble Bereans and let's all search the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11) and may we all take the time to meditate day and night upon the word of God (Psalm 1:1-2).

4) Told Your Family How Much You Love Them?

Friends, when was the last time you expressed your love to your loved ones? Sadly, families today just don't seem to be as close as they should be. Why? Well again, too many today are caught up in the hustle and bustle of the everyday world, and they are putting time that they should be spending with their family on the "back burner." However, we all need to make and take time for our families, and we need to be expressing our love to them. For, husbands are commanded to love their wives (Ephesians 5:25) and are to be an encouragement to their children (Colossians 3:21). Likewise, wives are commanded to love their husbands and their children (Titus 2:4). Therefore, take the time to let your loved ones know how much you love them.

5) Encouraged The Brethren?

Brethren, when was the last time you spent some quality time with fellow Christians? When was the last time you sent a card, or made a phone call to encourage a brother or sister in Christ? You see, it is very important for brethren to make and take the time to encourage one another. Why? Well, to help prevent us from being hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13). So, knowing that let's all become more diligent in taking the time to consider one another, in order to stir up love and good works (Hebrews 10:24).

6) Examined Yourself?

Have you looked in the mirror lately? If so, did you like what you saw? You see, my friends, we must take the time to do some self-examining (2 Corinthians 13:5) and we must be honest with ourselves when we do so. Therefore, take the time to reflect upon your life, and if you find that you are not living according to God's standard make the necessary changes needed to do so while you have the time to do so. So, let's all take the time to examine ourselves, and let's never forget these inspired words of Paul, "let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12).

Once more, I ask the question, when was the last time?

✠ Brad Phillips



"PRETEND IT'S SUNDAY"

On a cold, snowy, icy, wintery day in 1978, a Kentucky newscaster, in an effort to keep people from driving on the slick roads, told his listeners to "just pretend that it's Sunday." I appreciate his effort in trying to keep people from driving on the icy roads, however I think his comment is a sad commentary on the behavior of most people. This man recognized that many (if not most) people either do not go anywhere on Sunday or they do not consider their "Sunday going" as important as their other going. I believe the opposite should be true.

God places a great deal of emphasis on public worship. The Hebrew writer says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25). Many today place little or no importance upon assembling to worship God. Why is this the case?

Of course, we recognize that many in this world have no interest in things spiritual. Certainly these will not put forth the effort to attend public worship assemblies. However, many religious groups also contribute to this problem. These groups teach and practice things in their worship which are not authorized by God. Is it any wonder then that members of these groups place little importance upon what the Bible says about assembling? If the Bible can be ignored on other matters why not on this matter also?

Also, many church members are content to "go to church." They

do not look upon the assembling together as an opportunity to worship God, but as just some ritual to go through. I read of a church in Louisville, Kentucky that had "500 participating members" and an average "Sunday attendance of 175." I wonder what the other 325 members "participate" in. Let us place the proper emphasis upon assembling to worship God. We need to follow the Lord's teaching on this matter as well as on all other matters.

✠ James Hahn



On Listening to Sermons

How about a suggestion on how better to deal with sermons? As a veteran fidgety pew wiggler myself I have some experience in these matters. Immense help and immense focus come when we always follow along in the Scriptures and take notes on the sermon. The importance of these two cannot be overstated. You will be surprised how much more involved you will become. You will listen better. You will follow along better. You will pay attention better. Put down a title, main points, passages used, and any observations (even things like, "Is he right about that?"). When I do this I am putting something into the lesson in order to get more out of it. It does not matter if I have heard the topic before, or if it is the simplest of lessons, or what the topic is. It helps me to pay attention, and admittedly, yes, maybe helps the time move along better when paying attention is difficult.

✠ Robert Hines

Belleville church of Christ

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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