

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 10

2017

"And Such Were Some Of You"

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). In writing to the Corinthian brethren, Paul was guided by the Holy Spirit in correcting any false view, which they might have entertained, regarding who would inherit the kingdom of God. He reminds them that the unrighteous would not inherit the kingdom of God. The unrighteous refer to those, who in this dispensation do not obey the gospel of Christ. It is in the gospel that the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. (Romans 1:17). Though he was writing to those who had obeyed the gospel, and been added to the Lord's church, he wanted them to know that they could still sin, and fail to inherit the everlasting kingdom of God. (II Peter 1:11). He certainly did not teach that once a person obeys the gospel, the grace of Christ then makes sin no longer sin, which a child of God might commit. Perhaps some of the Corinthians were being deceived into thinking this! Paul warns them by saying, "Be not deceived" into thinking these acts are no longer sin, since you have become Christians, or children of God. To lessen their possibility of being deceived, he enumerates a catalog of sins, which could keep them from inheriting the kingdom of God. "Be not deceived: neither

fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." .Would these have been listed, if the brethren were not subject to committing such, and by so doing, forfeiting their inheritance in the kingdom of God? Paul Wanted These Brethren To Remember And Appreciate:

That such were some of you. At one time in their lives, there were those in the church at Corinth who had committed these sins of which he speaks. Not everyone had done everything mentioned, but members of the church were representatives of the catalog of these heinous sins. The word, "were" is to be underscored and held in regard. This was their former life, and they now had a new life in Christ Jesus. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17). They were to live in such a manner as to make the practice of sin something that they were doing, rather than what they were now practicing. By obeying the gospel of Christ, they had made a commitment to Christ, which should never be ignored in the life of His disciples. Paul Wanted These Brethren To Remember And Appreciate:

That they had been forgiven of these sins. *"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."* (1 Corinthians 6:11). This verse reveals that they were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. We read of the beginning of the church at Corinth in the 18th chapter of the book of Acts. By doing so, we can come to understand how and when they came to be washed, sanctified and justified in the name of Jesus Christ. *"Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean; from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles."* (Acts 18:5-6). From there, Paul went to the house of Justus, *"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."* (Acts 18:8). By

hearing and believing in Christ, and being baptized, these Corinthians were washed, sanctified and justified in the name of Jesus Christ. This is how the church began in Corinth, and how it begins in every place! The scriptures do not reveal separate acts of obedience for one being washed, sanctified and being justified. When a person obeys the gospel, he is washed, sanctified and justified by God's power, which is in the gospel of Christ. (Romans 1:16). Furthermore, Paul Wanted Them To Remember And Appreciate:

That these sins can be forgiven and forsaken. In this category of sins, it is stated, "nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind," Other versions render this: "nor homosexuals, nor sodomites," (NKJV). "nor men who practice homosexuality," (ESV). We mention this particular sin because some people deny it being a sin, and even speak of it being a condition of which people are born, and have no control. They want to free people of being responsible for being homosexual! Along with the other sins listed, homosexuality is definitely stated. Paul declares that some of the Corinthians had participated in such a sin. They could be and had been forgiven in obeying the gospel. We need to realize today that it is a sin that people need to forsake and be forgiven of in obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ. Be Not Deceived! *✍ Bobby K. Thompson*



The Power Of God

With hydrogen bombs perched in the nose of complex inter-continental missiles, waiting the final push of the switch that will send them coursing swiftly to the total destruction of whole cities — even involve countries — one man with vengeful heart, may control almost inconceivable force.

The gospel of Christ has the power to stay his hand — teach him to live peaceably with his neighbors.

After all, Guns Do Not Kill People; People Kill People! That is a very good slogan to remember.

We can spend our time and talents thinking up ways and means of overcoming people, or of saving people; of whipping them down,

or lifting them up; of magnifying their error, or teaching them truth. Gods power, in our hearts, makes the difference.

This is not to say that error must not be fought, that discipline must not be exercised, that false doctrine must not be exposed. I believe in PLAIN TALK: in clearly and forcibly reprovng, rebuking as well as exhorting — with the power of God. When we act in keeping with the gospel of Christ, our action is motivated by love for souls, and a sincere desire to pull out of the fire those spotted by the flesh. I feel it necessary to warn, however, lest we confuse zeal to teach and save, with vindictive feelings that easily accompany discussion of differences.

The power of God is inseparable from the spirit of God. Christ overcame Satan, not by adopting Satan's evil ways, and beating Him at that game; but by maintaining God-likeness (doing the will of the Father). Being God, though He reviled not again He led captivity captive by His inherent power.

The apostles knew that the power must be of God, and not of themselves (1 Corinthians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7). The gospel is Gods power (dynamite) unto salvation (Romans 1:16). The power to cast down strongholds, human reasonings and to capture hearts for Christ, is at our disposal (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). IF WE REALLY BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF GOD, WHAT OTHER COULD WE DESIRE ?? *✍ Robert F. Turner*

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