

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 31

2017

FINAL ISSUE FOR 2017

It hardly seems possible that another year is nearly gone. However, as we look at the calendar we see that today is the last day of 2017. As we end 2017 and make plans for the new year I believe it is appropriate that we take time for self-inventory.

It seems as though every newspaper and every TV and radio station has some type of review of the events of the past year. Maybe it would be good for each of us to do that with our own lives. What have we accomplished during the past year? What were our goals for the year? How close did we come to reaching those goals? Was my life spent in faithful service to God during the year? If I can not answer that final question in the affirmative then nothing else really matters. You may have accomplished many things in the way of material gain; you may have advanced far in social position or job security, but if you did not faithfully serve God all these accomplishments are but vanity.

Not only is this a time of reviewing and remembering the past year but it is also a time for looking forward to the coming year. Again, we emphasize that any plans which do not have God as their center are meaningless. I hope that each of us will resolve to be all that God would have us to be during the coming year.

For some this will mean a complete turn around in your life. You have not yet taken the initial steps in following the Lord. I hope you will overcome whatever may have hindered you in the past and decide to render obedience to the Lord and live this coming year and any future years you may have in service to the Lord.

I am thankful to say that for others this resolution simply means they

will continue with the commitment they made in days past. They have been striving to faithfully serve the Lord and have grown in "the grace and knowledge" of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18). May your number increase.

On a personal note, I wish to take this means of expressing my thanks and appreciation to the saints here at Belleville for your continued support and encouragement to me and Mary Ann, not only during the past year, but during all the 12 plus years we have been with you. We pray God's richest blessings upon you during the coming year.

As noted by the title of this article, this will be the last issue of *"The Belleville Messenger"* for 2017. We hope that the articles we have included in these pages during the past year have been of help to you as you seek to serve the Lord. We appreciate the kind remarks we have received from many of you. We also appreciate those of you who may not always agree with everything you read in these pages. We simply ask you to read and examine the things we print in the light of God's word. If they be true, accept them; if you find them to be contrary to God's word please let us know. We want to be right and we know the only way we, or anyone else, can be right is to be in harmony with His will in all we teach and do.

May each of you have a wonderful 2018.

✍ James Hahn



“Hear Ye Him”

In Matthew 17, we learn about the transfiguration of Jesus, and while Peter, James, and John were on a high mountain with Jesus, they heard a voice come out of a bright cloud saying, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him”* (Matthew 17:5). Ladies and gentleman, just as God the Father instructed the apostles to hear Jesus, we likewise need to do the same. So, let’s examine some things which Jesus said, beginning with Jesus said to...

1) **Love The Lord Thy God.**

When a certain lawyer asked Jesus what the greatest commandment was, He replied with, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment”* (Matthew 22:37-38). Folks, hear Jesus and wholeheartedly love the Lord thy God with thy all.

2) Fear God.

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus said, *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. But rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Friends, only God is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Therefore, hear Jesus and only fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body.

3) Glorify God.

All glory belongs to God (Philippians 4:20) and during His sermon on the mount Jesus instructed believers to, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). Brethren, hear Jesus, let your light so shine, and give God the glory.

4) Follow Him.

In Mark 8:34, Jesus said, *“Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”* Are you following Jesus? If not, your encouraged to hear Jesus, deny self, and to take up your cross and follow Him.

5) Keep His Commandments.

Jesus while speaking to His chosen disciples said, *“If ye love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15). Do you love Jesus? If you do, hear Him and keep His commandments.

6) Make Disciples.

Jesus commissioned His apostles to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). Therefore, let us all likewise hear Jesus and let’s teach other’s the gospel and also make disciples. For as the wise man said, *“..he that winneth souls is wise”* (Proverbs 11:30).

7) Love Your Enemies.

Although it is not always an easy thing to do, Jesus declared, *“But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you”* (Luke 6:27-28). Folks, hear Jesus and be one who expresses love toward your enemies.

8) Be Forgiving.

Sometimes, it is hard for some of us to forgive others. However, notice what Jesus said, *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, But if ye forgive not men their trespasses,*

neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:14-15). Friends, let’s all hear Jesus and let’s forgive others of their trespasses, so that we may likewise be forgiven by God.

9) Lay Up Treasure In Heaven.

In Matthew 6:19-20, Jesus advised one to not lay up treasures on earth, but rather to lay up treasures in heaven. You see, the world and the lust of it is passing away, but he who does the will of God abides forever (1 John 2:17). Therefore, hear Jesus and be one who lays up treasure in heaven, rather than on earth.

10) Watch and Be Ready.

My friends, there is a great day coming when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will appear a second time (Hebrews 9:28). Now the question is, are you ready for that great day? If not, you need to get ready, for as Peter said, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). So, knowing that, let’s all hold on to the words of Jesus from Matthew 24:42-44, and let’s watch and be ready for the coming of the Lord.

Ladies and gentleman, this is by no means an exhaustive list of things said by Jesus. However, I hope these few things mentioned are helpful to you, and I likewise hope that we will all hear and take the words of Jesus seriously (John 12:48) and that we will all apply them to our lives. So, always remember to “hear ye Him” and keep these words of Jesus in mind, *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear”* (Mark 4:9).

✍ Brad Phillips

Belleville church of Christ	
<i>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258</i>	
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