

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 8

2018

Taking A Deep Breath!

“Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it:” Isaiah 42:5

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord” Psalm 150:6

There are times in life that I must admit are tougher than others. Maybe things at home with the wife are not as good as others. Maybe issues with children or other family members are not as good as another. Maybe things at work are not as good at times as they are as another. Things in this life have a tendency to go up and down and our emotions go with them.

So it is in a congregation of the Lord’s people. There are times that we are comfortable with what is going on and at other times there are challenges that we become uncomfortable with.

We especially get uncomfortable if something is said or done that affect those whom we are close to. While we are taught to love our brothers and sisters in Christ we are closer to some than we are to others. In fact we may not know some of our brothers and sisters in Christ in our own local congregation.

There can also be times that the elders are challenging members to grow more in the faith. Preachers are giving lessons that challenge our thinking and yes even our traditions.

Sometimes we need to take a deep breath and remember where

that breath came from!

✍ Steve Niemeier



Contentment

The other day, an elderly sister in Christ who was hospitalized due to having some heart issues said something that caught my attention. She said, “I am content no matter what happens.” You see, contentment is a satisfied state (The American Century Dictionary) so to be simply put, this sister in Christ was happy, she was satisfied, she was free from worry, and she was at peace. Ladies and gentlemen, it was so comforting and encouraging to hear those words come from this sister’s mouth, all the while she had a big smile on her face. However, the more I thought about her words, the more I got to thinking about what the Bible has to say about contentment, beginning with...

1) Paul Learned To Be Content.

The apostle Paul, in regard to the generosity of the saints at Philippi wrote, *“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content”* (Philippians 4:11). My friends, contentment is a learned disposition, and Paul had learned to have a contented mind no matter what state he was in, giving us an example to likewise follow. Now, some may ask how is that possible? Well, Paul goes onto tell us how when he says, *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* (Philippians 4:13). Folks, may we likewise be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10) and let’s also learn to be content in whatever state we are in.

2) Godliness With Contentment Is Great Gain.

The Bible also teaches us that godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Timothy 6:6). When defined godliness is “piety” towards God, which means reverence or respect. To be simply put, when one is godly they will have a genuine love and respect for God and His will. However, true godliness is accompanied with contentment, and as Paul informed, godliness with contentment is great gain. You see, godliness with contentment promotes happiness, it eliminates murmuring and complaining, and it is much more profitable than the

riches of this world. Therefore, be one who has a respect for God's will, and accompaniment it with contentment.

3) We Need To Be Content With Such Things As We Have.

In Hebrews 13:5, the Hebrew writer instructs, *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have."* You see, my friends, one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses (Luke 12:15). For as Paul reminds us, *"we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out"* (1 Timothy 6:7). Sadly, there are many today who do not understand those facts, and because of that they are not content with such things which they have, but rather they are constantly in search for more. However, may we never take for granted the simple necessities of life (1 Timothy 6:8), and may we all be a people who are not covetousness, but rather a people who are content with such things as we have.

Ladies and gentlemen, hopefully we all can see and understand the importance of contentment, and hopefully we too, like the sister I mentioned earlier, can honestly say "I am content no matter what happens." So, I now ask, are you content?

✍️ Brad Phillips



Editor's Note: The following article was written by the late Robert Turner in 1976 but contains truth that we need to be reminded of. (JH)

Prejudicial "History"

From *Spiritual Sword*, January 76, we quote: *"From about the middle of the 1950s to the middle of the 1960s the main issues with which the Lords church was plagued were those of radical (erroneous) conservatism. Among those issues were such questions as: (1) simultaneous Bible classes, (2) women teachers of classes of women and/or children, (3) individual drinking cups for the fruit of the vine, (4) located preachers, (5) orphan homes, (6) local churches giving benevolent assistance to non-Christians (especially orphan children), (7) one church assisting another church in preaching the gospel."*

Church historians are in for a big surprise when they learn that

one to four (generally assigned to the later 19th. - early 20th. century) are dated mid-1950s to the mid-1960s issues. Of course to this day one can find issues of the first century; but such statements as above are clearly for one purpose only to prejudice the reader by classing the institutional issues with older problems, likely now to spark a negative reaction. Its an old dishonorable trick.

We can understand how institutional advocates (having a more liberal conception of matters) might charge all they consider to be ultra-conservative as but from the same pattern. Although it is a cheap debate maneuver, we can even understand how in a heated discussion they might throw in an Anti now and then — we try to take these things philosophically. We just expected a little better grasp of the facts by the associate editor of the afore named journal.

Well, we live and learn — that the institutional issue is not nearly as dead as they would have the public believe — that the associate editor has either (a) actually been made to believe the propaganda of the mid 50's to the mid 60s and has never made an independent study of the matters, or (b) is much less objective than better statements would lead us to believe. What a pity!!

Such tactics disgust those who know better, and serve only as sectarian bindery for a party of the less informed — whether dealing with yesterdays or today's issues. ✍️ 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