

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 11

2018

Why Should It Be Thought Incredible?

In Acts 26:8, we read that when the apostle Paul stood before King Agrippa he asked him, “*Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?*” Now, it is important to note that the word incredible simply means, “impossible or difficult to believe.” However, just as many in the first century found it impossible or difficult to believe what the apostles were teaching pertaining to the gospel of Christ, there are likewise still many today who find God and His will impossible or difficult to believe. For, it is incredible to some that...

1) God Created The World.

We live in a time where God is being taken out of our society as a whole, and because of that many today are being taught the theory of evolution, instead of the truth concerning creation. However, the truth is, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*” (Genesis 1:1). You see, my friends, the fact of the matter is, without our Almighty Creator, we as human beings would not even exist, and the apostle Paul confirmed this fact when he said, “*...for in Him (God) we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring*” (Acts 17:28). Therefore, it should not be thought incredible that God created the world and everything in it.

2) God’s Word Is True.

The Bible, is the inspired word of God (2 Timothy 3:16).

However, there are some who discredit the Bible as being inspired by God, and they believe that it is a book of fiction, rather than a book of truth. However, Jesus Christ Himself, declared God’s word as truth (John 17:17), and the inspired Psalmist informed that the entirety of God’s word is truth (Psalm 119:160). You see, my friends, it is impossible for God to lie (Hebrews 6:18), therefore it should not be thought incredible that God’s word is true.

3) Baptism Saves.

There are numerous people today who think that if one just believes and accepts Jesus Christ in their heart as their Savior, that they will be among those who will be saved. However, one must do more than just believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to be saved. For, Jesus Christ Himself said, “*He who believes and is baptized will be saved...*” (Mark 16:16). So, contrary to what many believe concerning baptism, it is essential for salvation (Acts 2:38; 22:16), for as the apostle Peter clearly wrote, “*There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...*” (1 Peter 3:21). Ladies and gentlemen, the Bible teaches that baptism saves, therefore it should not be thought incredible that baptism saves.

4) All Men Will Not Be Saved.

Jesus, while preaching the sermon on the mount said, “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (Matthew 7:13-14). How many will be saved? We do not know the exact number, but we do know, as Jesus said, there will be more who will not be saved than those who will be saved. So, you see, the Scriptures do teach that all men will not be saved (Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 13:23-24). Therefore, let us all strive to be one of the few who will someday inherit eternal life, and let’s not be one who thinks it is incredible that all men will not be saved.

5) We Will All Stand In Judgment.

Folks, God has appointed a day when the world will be judged by

Jesus Christ (Acts 17:31). Therefore, we must all be prepared for this great day, for as Paul proclaimed, "...we must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Romans 14:10). So, I now ask, are you prepared for the Judgment Day? If not, you need to get ready! For, there is no escaping the Judgment Day, and the Day is coming, when we will all stand in judgement and give account for the things which we have done (2 Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, it should not be thought incredible that we will all someday stand in judgment.

My friends, these are just a few things that some find impossible or hard to believe. However, you are encouraged not to be one who rejects the truth, but rather be one who trusts and obeys.

✍️ Brad Phillips



DISRESPECT FOR GOD'S WORD

To anyone who has any respect whatsoever for the word of God it is utterly disgusting to observe the attitude that prevails in the minds of so many today. I believe I am safe in saying that the majority of the people in our society have little or no respect for the teachings found in the Bible. This is also true of many who set themselves forth as teachers of the Bible.

In recent years we have heard and read a great deal about how the various religious groups were going to view the question of homosexuality. This does not present a problem for those who are willing to abide by the teachings of God's word and respect the authority of that word. However, most religious groups have long passed the time when they are willing to go to the word of God as their source of authority, therefore they are now taking positions on this evil practice which are in direct conflict with the word of God. This sin is plainly condemned in the word of God and the end of those who practice such is clearly stated (See Romans 1:24-32).

A few years ago a well known public figure received all kinds of

opposition and criticism because she had the courage to publicly denounce this sin. Even some religious teachers are either upholding the sin by condoning those who are guilty of such, or they refuse to speak out against such. One such teacher made the statement that of all the passages in the Bible condemning homosexuality, none were directly attributed to Jesus. What is the purpose of such a statement? Does the man mean to imply that Jesus does not condemn the sin? Is he suggesting that Paul, as he was guided by the Holy Spirit, taught something different from what Jesus taught? This is not so. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into all truth (John 16:13) and that he would bring to their remembrance the things Jesus had said (John 14:26). Paul said that he (and the other apostles) were ambassadors on behalf of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

When we read that which was revealed to the apostles by the Holy Spirit it should be received with the same respect as if it were directly spoken to us by the Lord. To reject the apostles teaching is to reject Christ. See Acts 2:42 and 2 John 9. When we respect the authority of Christ we will abide in the apostles teaching and will not find ourselves upholding anything condemned therein. Yes, let us learn to respect and reverence the word of God for we will all be judged by it in the last day (John 12:48).

✍️ James Hahn

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) 443-1938