

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 18

2018

When Was The Last Time?

This question came to mind as I read the following article by Brad Phillips. Brad deals with a church seeking to please people by making everything convenient for them. As you examine the things being done in religion today this seems to be the main concern of most. When was the last time you heard a denominational preacher or anyone in denominations appeal to the word of God as the authority for what they are teaching or doing? A lesson we all need to learn is our worship is not about ME. So many speak of what they want to do or what they enjoy doing; seldom to you hear them speaking of what God wants or what is pleasing to Him. We are to worship God (John 4:23,24). The only way we know what He desires is through His word. True worshipers will study that word and then follow its teaching. Why? Because it is our desire to worship and please God, not ourselves. *✍ James Hahn*



We Are To Worship On The First Day of The Week

The other day I saw a post card that read, “Come To Church On Saturday - Sleep In On Sunday!” The post card went on to read, “If you’re not a morning person, or simply want to spend Sunday

mornings relaxing with the one’s you love, check out the new Saturday Night Service at Vertical Church! You will experience the same message and worship that you would on Sunday morning.”

Now, this might sound appealing to many in the world today, but I found it to be very alarming! Why? Well, because the all inspired and sufficient word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17) commands, and gives approved examples, of Christians in the first century worshipping on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2), not on the seventh day (Saturday) or any other day, but again on the first day of the week (Sunday).

However, there are unfortunately many in the religious world today who overlook and fail to comply with Bible authority. For example, there are many today, just as there were some in the first century, who seek to worship God as they please (Colossians 2:23), there are many who ignorantly worship God (Acts 17:23), and because of that, there are many who worship in vain (Matthew 15:9). So, you see, we must not be a people who waste our time worshipping in error, but rather we must be a people who worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Therefore, my friends, beware lest anyone cheats you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principals of the world, and not according to Christ (Colossians 2:8), do not be conformed to this world (Romans 12:1-2), but rather be one who diligently abides in the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9), do all that you do in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17), keep the commandments of God (1 Corinthians 7:19), serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear (Hebrews 12:28), and be one who always gives unto the Lord the glory due to His name (Psalm 29:2).

Once more, Christians are to offer their worship to God on the first day of the week, and if one seeks to offer their worship to God on any other day than the first day of the week, they are simply just wasting their time. So, let no one deceive you with empty words, for

because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience (Ephesians 5:6), and be one who has no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them (Ephesians 5:11).
✍ Brad Phillips



Three Kinds of Christians

There are three kinds of Christians in any local congregation. Which kind are you?

1) There are those Christians you can always count on. When there is work to be done, when a volunteer is needed, when a need must be met, you can depend on these folks to step forward. They carry their own weight, and they help others carry theirs, too (Gal. 6:2,5). There is never a doubt about their commitment or dedication. Their obvious zeal serves as a positive source of encouragement to others. You just never are left to wonder where they stand - because they demonstrate their faith in every way. These Christians serve as the "core" of any faithful congregation. Without them, important work would never get done - crucial matters would be left unattended - the church simply would not do well. Thank God for all such brethren. We should all strive to be one of these!

2) There are some other Christians in the church that are absolutely "out of it." They have little if any connection to the real work of the local congregation. They never are around if there is work to be done, and they simply DO NOT volunteer to help with the on-going efforts of the group. It is even impossible to count on these folks to attend the services regularly. Almost anything can serve as an excuse for them to miss the assemblies. And, if they don't even assemble faithfully, we wonder if they are really doing anything in service to the Lord.

3) There is yet another group that is in evidence in the local church. These are the ones who are "riding the fence." They want to give the impression that they are faithful and involved, but in reality their lives

are full of compromise. They vocally claim allegiance to Christ, but they can't be counted on to consistently put the kingdom first.

Our Lord described these three kinds of Christians as "hot," "cold," and "lukewarm" (Rev. 3:15,16). Which term describes YOU?

✍ Greg Gwin



God's Promise about Daily Temptation

The apostle says, "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). And so we know...,

- (1) We all face the same tests
- (2) God won't let them be more than we can handle
- (3) Our job is to find His escape route
- (4) With His help we can endure whatever comes our way.

Wonderful!

✍ Robert Hines

Belleville church of Christ

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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

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