

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 30

2018

## Some Lessons A Certain Rich Man Learned Too Late

In Luke 16:19, we read about a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and who fared sumptuously every day. However, dropping down to verses 22-23, we learn that this rich man died, he was buried, and he was in torment in Hades. Now, it is from here that a certain rich man learned some very valuable lessons too late. For instance...

### 1) He Learned That A Place of Torment Is For Real.

In Luke 16:24, we read about the rich man pleading for mercy. Why? Well, because he was being tormented in the flames of torment. So, you see, my friends, the rich learned that a place of torment is for real, it truly does exist. Therefore, contrary to the belief of many today a place of torment is no joke, and those who do not become obedient to the truth will likewise someday learn all too late that a place of torment is for real (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

### 2) He Learned That Material Goods Have No Value After Death.

In Luke 16:25, the rich man was reminded of the good things (i.e. material goods) that he received in his lifetime. Now, was it wrong for the rich man to have obtained good things in his lifetime? Absolutely not, the problem was the rich man gave no consideration to helping others who were in need of help (Luke 16:19-21). So, after

death the rich man went to a place of torment, and he learned way too late that material goods and living a life of luxury on earth, have and hold no value whatsoever after death.

### 3) He Learned That There Is A Great Gulf Fixed In Hades.

In Luke 16:26, the rich man is told that there is a great gulf fixed in hades between those in Abraham's bosom or Paradise (Luke 23:43) and those in torments, and because of that, there is no passing from one place to another. Therefore, to be simply put, once one dies their eternal destiny is sealed. So, my friends, if one is sent to torments after they die, they like the certain rich man will be forever in a state of hopelessness.

### 4) He Learned The Importance of Repentance.

In Luke 16:27-30, we read about the request of the rich man for Lazarus to be sent back from the dead to testify to his brothers so that they may repent lest they also be sent to the place of torment. You see, the rich man learned too late the importance of repentance, but although it was too late for him to repent, he now understood the importance of repentance, and he sincerely desired for his five brothers to learn the importance of repentance before it was likewise too late for them.

### 5) He Learned Who One Must Hear To Obtain Salvation.

In Luke 16:31, the rich man in reference to his five brothers was told, "*if they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.*" Folks, the rich man and his brothers lived under the law of Moses, therefore it was necessary for them to hear Moses and the prophets in order for them to know the way of salvation. However, we do not live under the law of Moses today, but rather we live under the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2). Therefore, my friends, just as the rich man learned who one must hear to obtain salvation, it is necessary for one today to hear the gospel of Christ in order to know the way salvation (Romans 1:16).

Ladies and gentlemen, take heed to these lessons learned too late by a certain rich man, make proper application of these lessons in your life, and beware lest you too someday learn these lessons all too late.

✍️ Brad Phillips

# Put Christ Back In

Around December 25<sup>th</sup> we often hear the expression, “Put Christ Back In Christmas.” However, my friends, it is impossible to put Christ back into something that He never was in. You see, although many in the world relate December 25<sup>th</sup> to being the birth date of Jesus Christ (due primarily because this assumption was accepted by the Roman Catholics under the direction of Pope Julius I) the truth is, the Bible does not reveal the date or the month of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to us.

Therefore, the fact of the matter is, the official day and month of Christ Jesus birth is uncertain. So, although the Bible says nothing about the official birth date of Christ, and nothing about anything called Christmas, we can still use the expression “Putting Christ Back In” to learn some valuable lessons. Beginning with, we need to put Christ back in...

## 1) The Position of Authority.

Unfortunately, there are many today who do not abide in the authority of Christ. However, it is very important to understand that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18). What does that mean? Well, when defined authority is “the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.” Therefore, Christ has the “power to command,” and since Christ has all authority over men (1 Corinthians 11:3) may we never be one who questions or disobeys the authority of Christ (Matthew 21:23-27), and may we do all that we do in the name of the Lord Jesus (i.e. by His authority) just as the apostle Paul instructs in Colossians 3:17. So, put Christ back in the position of authority and keep Him there (Colossians 1:18).

## 2) Our Preaching and Teaching.

We also need to put Christ back in our preaching and teaching. You see, much of the preaching recorded in the New Testament centered around Jesus Christ (Acts 4:2, 8:5, 35, 9:20). Therefore, we too need to likewise preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23), rather than the wisdom of men (1 Corinthians 2:1-5), and we need to

always only preach and teach the doctrine of Christ (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 John 9), rather than philosophy and empty deceit according to the tradition of men (Colossians 2:8). So, let’s put Christ back in our preaching and teaching and let’s diligently preach and teach Christ Jesus the Lord (2 Corinthians 4:5).

## 3) The Christian.

Last, but certainly not least, Christ needs to be put back in the Christian. You see, sadly there are many today who profess to be Christians, but they do not act like it. However, the Christian is one who has put Christ on through baptism (Galatians 3:27), and disciples of Christ wear the name Christian (Acts 11:26). Therefore, the Christian needs to let the world see Christ living in them (Galatians 2:20), they need to shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15), and they must walk (i.e. pattern their life) as Christ walked (1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6), and not according to darkness, lest they be a liar (1 John 1:6). So, with that said, may all Christians always strive to be imitators of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Ladies and gentlemen, the phrase “Put Christ Back In” is not so bad of an idea, provided He is put back in all the right things.

*✍ Brad Phillips*

**Editor’s Note:** Brad (author of the previous articles) will be with us tonight. We encourage you to be here to hear Brad.

## Belleville church of Christ

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[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://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) 443-1938