

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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## What Is The Best Reason For Doing Anything?

There are often a variety of reasons for why people do what they do. For instance, many will only choose to help another in need as long as there is something of personal benefit in it for them. Many people will likewise only do this or that if there is an opportunity for them to gain financially, and there are many others who will only do certain things in order to be seen by men. However, do you know what the best reason is for doing anything? Well, I suggest to you that the best reason for doing anything is to do it because it is right (Read Ephesians 6:1).

You see, we should not be doing this or that for the purpose of personal gain, financial gain, or to be noticed by men, but rather we should be doing the things that we do simply because it is the right thing to do (James 4:17). Unfortunately, doing the right thing is often “counter-cultural” in today’s “what’s in it for me” society. For, sadly, there are many today who know to do the right thing, but they just choose not to do the right thing. Now, why do you think that is so?

Well, first of all, I suggest to you that doing the right thing is not always the easiest thing to do, and many will often opt to take the easy route, rather than to do what is right. Secondly, things such as pride, selfishness, covetousness, and laziness often get in the way of doing that which is right, and these foolish things likewise often keep people from doing the right thing.

However, whatever the reason might be for why people may choose not to do what is right, the fact of the matter is, there is no acceptable excuse for not doing what is right. Therefore, be one who always seeks to do what

is right to all (1 Thessalonians 5:15), never grow weary in doing what is right (Galatians 6:9), and even though you may sometimes suffer for doing what is right always choose to do the right thing (1 Peter 3:14).

Friends, I know ask, are you always striving to do what is right? If not, why not? For again, we all need to strive to always do what is right, simply because it is right, and we need to keep in mind that we will all reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8). So, once more, do the right thing, and always remember, the best reason to do anything is to do it because it is right!

✍ Brad Phillips



## BY WHAT AUTHORITY?

When Jesus was asked by the chief priests and scribes, “... *by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority?*” (Luke 20:2), he answered with a question of His own. He asked, “*The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men?*” (Luke 20:4). Of course, they would not answer this question because they were unwilling to accept the consequences of either answer. However, the question raised is a good question and one which must be answered in regards to the things we believe and practice. Can you give the right answer for what you believe?

I believe that one must believe and be baptized to be saved. Why do I believe this? I believe such because of what Jesus said in Mark 16:16. There are those who say baptism is unnecessary to salvation. Why do they believe that? Can they find scriptural authority for their belief or is it based on their own ideas and/or feelings?

I believe we should partake of the Lord's Supper upon the first day of the week. Why? Because of the example of the early disciples as recorded in Acts 20:7. There are those who say we can partake of the Lord's Supper on any day of the week or maybe once a month or once a year, etc. Why do they believe this? It surely is not because of what the scriptures teach. Again, it must be based on personal ideas or feelings.

I believe that a person can be honest in his belief and think he is pleasing God and have a good conscience and yet be wrong. Why do I believe this? Because we have an example of such in the apostle Paul prior to his conversion. (See Acts 26:9; 23:1 and 1 Timothy 1:15). There are those who teach that one can be saved just so long as he is honest in his belief and practice. Why do they believe so? Again, I note that the word

of God offers no support for such a belief.

I believe that a child of God must take heed lest he fall? Why do I believe this? Because this is the very warning Paul gave to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 10:12. There are those who believe that once one has become a child of God he cannot fall. Why do they believe and so teach? It is from man and not from God. They cannot find such teaching in God's word.

I believe that once a person has become a child of God and does sin that he must repent and pray to God for forgiveness. Why do I believe this? This is what Peter told such a one to do in Acts 8:22. There are some who say they believe that if a child of God sins and then dies before he learns that what he did was a sin or before he repents God will still save that one. Why would one believe this? Is it because of what the Bible says? If so, where does the word of God teach such?

I hope we can see the importance of the question which serves as the title of this article. We need to be content in speaking only what the Bible says. Even if I were to think or wish that God may make exceptions to what He has said in His word I still have no right or any basis for telling anyone anything but what the Bible says. If you are outside of Christ and believe that Jesus is the Christ then you need to repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38). If you have been baptized and have again sinned you need to repent and pray to God for forgiveness (Acts 8:22). No one has the right to tell you anything other than this and we have no basis of hope if we fail to so obey. Our faith and trust must be in Christ and not in our own ideas and opinions.

*✍ James Hahn*



## Conscience

Conscience reveals what each man believes he "ought" to be (Acts 23:1,24; 24:16; 26:9-11). It is indicative of his inward feeling of moral right, of the noble ideal for which he feels he should strive. It is his prod toward his conception of moral heights, and his brakes against doing what he believes is wrong. Conscience is not the ultimate standard of truth, for that must come from God via revelation; but conscience toward God tells the individual's attitude toward God. That is why man must do what he truly believes God wants him to do (Romans 14).

While one is trying to do what he believes God wants him to do, (1) he may have an erroneous concept of what God desires (that was the case of Saul, in persecuting Christians), or, (2) he may, through weakness of the flesh, act contrary to his good intentions (Romans 7:22-f). In this case, he is made miserable by his conscience - is humbled before God, and appreciative of forgiveness in Christ. We are all imperfect creatures, and should, at times, feel these pangs.

But what of those who take part in, condone, and support that which is contrary to God's word, or without any divine authority? They may know no better, and be acting in good conscience before God. In this case, further information from God's word is most welcomed. Because they truly want to do His will, they gladly open their Bible, investigate, and change their conduct to fit the evidence. In this way they maintain a good conscience before God (1 Peter 3:21).

Sadly, however, we must acknowledge that there are those who have no such noble character (Acts 17:11). They are angered if their practice is questioned. They love the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 12:42-43). If their conscience toward God continues to function, they lead a miserable life, fighting with themselves, overwhelmed with feelings of guilt. Undesirable - yes, but there is yet hope while the battle rages. How terribly sad to see some whose conscience is seared (1 Timothy 4:2), and who can reject God without a qualm.

*✍ Robert Turner*

**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**

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