

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 3

2019

## SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE

One of Satan's most effective weapons against the people of God has always been the appeal to compromise. When the enemies of Nehemiah failed to hinder the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem by their ridicule and threats of carnal warfare they attempted to get Nehemiah to come down to the plain of Ono to meet with them (Nehemiah 6:2). However, Nehemiah refused to leave the great work he was doing because he knew their intent.

Even today we see such appeals being made by the enemies of truth. In recent months I have read many articles written by various individuals that seem to suggest that since one can not know **everything** he must not oppose or reject **anything**.

If you dare suggest that you can not accept a certain belief or practice you are immediately labeled as a narrow-minded legalist "know-it-all" who believes everyone must agree with you on everything or else be rejected. This kind of thinking has caused many to decide that we cannot speak out against anyone regardless of what he may believe or practice.

I do not know of anyone who claims to know everything or demands that his opinions be made the standard of authority, but I do know those who believe that the word of God is the final standard of authority and if anyone teaches or practices anything contrary to its teaching he is not acceptable to God and must not be upheld in his error. Paul commanded the Ephesians to *"have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them"* (Ephesians 5:11). How can this command be

obeyed if we are not even able to determine what *"works of darkness"* really are?

Every person must read and study the word of God for himself. No one should discourage such individual study. However, the encouragement of personal and individual study does not demand that I accept every idea or conclusion such individuals set forth. In fact, if through my own study of the word of God I am convinced that certain doctrines are false, I must, in order to have a clear conscience, refuse such teachings. It is true that I may be wrong in my conclusions, but this does not change the fact that I cannot violate my conscience by upholding something I believe to be contrary to the will of God.

Some brethren have accepted ideas and have engaged in activities which many brethren do not believe to be right. When brethren speak out in opposition to such ideas and refuse to condone these brethren in their practices they are often met with ridicule or some of the charges we mentioned earlier in this article. Brethren, I respect your right to study for yourself and your right to believe what you believe, however don't assume that I (or others) are just closed minded or bound by tradition if we do not accept your conclusions. Some of you leave the impression by your writings and/or your comments that if someone does not agree with you or is unwilling to accept you and your ideas it is simply because he is unwilling to study or is so steeped in traditionalism that he will not change. Did it ever occur to you that the one offering opposition to your teaching may have studied just as much as you have and that his opposition is based on his belief in what the word of God teaches and not just because he has always believed that way"?

There are some things that are contrary to God's will. The person who truly desires to please God will not engage in such nor will he bid Godspeed to those who do so (2 John 9-11). Paul spoke of some as being *"false brethren"* (Galatians 2:4) and concerning these he said, *"To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you"* (Galatians 2:5).

Let us continue to encourage all to study the word of God for themselves, but let us not encourage compromise with error or expect brethren to support and encourage us in that which they believe to be contrary to truth.

✍ James Hahn

## What People Do Not Know Can Hurt Them

Quite often we hear the statement made, “What people don’t know won’t hurt them.” However, when we seriously reflect upon this statement we can quickly conclude that this statement does not hold true concerning many things. For instance, if someone does not know that a bottle of water is contaminated with poison and they drink that bottle of water, it will hurt them. So, you see, there are some things that can hurt people if they do not know them, and this is not only true concerning physical matters, but also true concerning spiritual matters.

So, with the thought of what people do not know can hurt them pressed upon our minds let’s take a look at what people need to know concerning spiritual matters. Starting with, it is important that people know God, for if one does not know God, it will hurt them. How do I know this? Well, the apostle Paul gave this warning in 2 Thessalonians 1:8, when he revealed that vengeance will be taken upon those who do not know God, and he then goes on to inform in 2 Thessalonians 1:9 that those who do not know God will be punished with everlasting destruction.

Now, one must not only know God, the creator of all things (Acts 17:24), but they must likewise know His will. In Ephesians 5:17, Paul wrote, “do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is.” You see, it is vital for one to know God’s will, for if one does not know God’s will it will hurt them. So, do not be unwise like God’s people of old who were destroyed due to a lack of knowledge concerning God’s will (Hosea 4:6), but rather be one who knows God’s will.

Also, my friends, people are in need of knowing about sin. One must know that sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). One must know that all are under sin (Romans 3:9). One must know that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). One must know that sin separates them from God (Isaiah 59:2). One must know that they must repent of their sins (Luke 13:1-5), and one must know the need to be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). For, if one

does not know about sin, and what to do about it, sin will hurt them (Romans 6:23).

One must also know about Jesus Christ. One must know and believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God, lest they die in their sins (John 8:24). One must know that Jesus Christ is the Savior (1 John 4:14) and that He came to this world to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). One must know that Christ died for sinners (Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:15). One must know that Christ is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2). One must know that reconciliation to God is only through Christ (Romans 5:9-11). One must know that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5), and one must know that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one will come to the Father in heaven except through Him (John 14:6).

Folks, failure to know about the things mentioned above will hurt you. Therefore, seek the Lord while He can be found (Isaiah 55:6), hear the word of God and keep it (Luke 11:28), repent of your sins (Luke 13:3), declare Jesus Christ as the Son of God (Acts 8:37; 1 John 4:15), and be baptized to wash away your sins (Acts 22:16). For, failure to know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), and failure to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will hurt you (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

*✍ Brad Phillips*

### 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