

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 7

2021

Be Thou Faithful

In Revelation 2:10, the words of the Lord to the persecuted church in Smyrna were, *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”*

You see brethren, as Christians we are to be committed in being faithful to the Lord, even unto the point of death, if we want to someday receive the crown of life. No matter what! Therefore, let’s all take heed to the words, “be thou faithful,” and let’s always remember to...

Be Thou Faithful During Times of Persecution.

Brethren, we will all face persecution in some form or another. For, as the apostle Paul penned, *“...all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”* (2 Timothy 3:12). Therefore, be prepared to face persecution from others because of your desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus, and always strive to be thou faithful during times of persecution (1 Peter 4:16).

Be Thou Faithful During Times of Temptation.

Temptations and fleshly lusts which war against the soul are all around us, and we will all be faced with such. However, the good news is, *“...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 bear it”* (1 Corinthians 10:13). You see, temptation itself is not a sin, but James said, when one gives into temptation it gives birth to sin (James 1:12-15). Therefore, when you are negatively tempted, always look for the way of escape and be thou faithful when temptation surrounds you.

Be Thou Faithful During Disappointing Times.

As you know, there will be times in our lives when we will experience some disappointing and trying times. However, when those times arise, keep in mind these words of Peter, *“Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceedingly joy”* (1 Peter 4:12-13). Again, disappointing times in life are inevitable. Therefore, do not be surprised when you experience disappointing times, and continue to be thou faithful during times of disappointment.

Be Thou Faithful During Prosperous Times.

Unfortunately, there are some who cease from being faithful when they are experiencing prosperous times. Why? Well, often during prosperous times many get caught up in the things of the world, and they seek the pleasures of this life, rather than to seek to please God. In Luke 8:14, Jesus while explaining the parable of the sower said, *“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”* Brethren, we ought to be thankful when prosperous times arise. However, we must never get entangled with the riches of this world, and become one who brings no fruit to maturity. Therefore, continue to be thou faithful during prosperous times.

Be Thou Faithful During All Times To The Lord.

In 1 Corinthians 4:2 Paul recorded, *“...it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”* Brethren, may we all take heed to those words of Paul, and let’s always strive to be found faithful in our service to the Lord. Therefore, be ever mindful of these inspired words *“...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Once more, let’s all be engaged in the work of the Lord, and let’s be thou faithful in our service to the Lord.

Remember, my beloved brethren, no matter what the situation may be, never give up your faith, but rather always be thou faithful. For by doing so, you will someday be rewarded with a crown of life (Revelation 2:10).

✍ Brad Phillips

PLACES YOU LOVE TO GO

Name some places you love to go. Places that, even if you didn't feel well, or even though you were "so tired," but at the drop of a hat, you could be ready to go. Would it be out to eat? Grandma's? Colt's game? Movie?

I remember, as a lad, getting up at 4 in the morning so we could go to a St. Louis Cardinals game, which was a 7-hour drive. Do you think I wanted to go?

What would you think if...

1. Every day, a family member refused 2 of the 3 meals you prepared for them?
2. If you owned a business and one of your employees started missing 2-3 days every week?
3. If your car started missing?

Would you be asking questions?

God asked Israel questions in Mal.1:6 after they offered polluted worship - "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?' v.8 - And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?"

One place Israel didn't want to go was the way of the Lord. All the way through the book of Malachi the Jews failed to admit their sin. Many Christians are like that today.

Would the Lord be asking us those same questions when he learns that, we, like the Jews, didn't want to go His way? If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts...

Now, back to our question about places you would like to go. David said, I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psm.122:1. Can you say the same or is it a "weariness" like it was to Israel.

At the end of life you have only 2 choices for places to go, HEAVEN or HELL. One of which is not enviable, but you will go to one of these two places. At Judgment you will not have a choice like you do now. You will have shown the Lord just who is your Master, Rom.6:16-18.

Like Joshua of old, "choose you this day whom you will serve." For the one you choose now will be your Master through eternity.

If you say, "The place I really want to go is heaven," then prove it!!

✍️ Morris Hafley

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

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