

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

January 16

2022

## “I Have A Dream...”

The phrase “I have a dream” was made famous by Martin Luther King Jr. during his iconic speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963. The main message of King’s “I have a dream” speech emphasized his desire for equal rights, despite one’s skin color.

Now, I would like to borrow the phrase “I have a dream,” and emphasize my desire...

### **That All Would Obey The Gospel of Christ and Be Saved.**

“I have a dream” that all would obey the gospel of Christ and be saved, and in 1 Timothy 2:4, we learn about God’s desire for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth. You see, just as God desires for all to be saved, I likewise, desire for all to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be saved. For, the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16), and the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

However, those who neglect to obey the gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9), and will experience the second death (Revelation 20:14-15), and will be eternally lost. So, “I have a dream” that all will obey the gospel of Christ and be saved.

### **That All Those Who Have Fallen Away Would Return Back To Faithful Service.**

Sadly, there have been many who have laid down their sword and turned their back on the Lord, and “I have a dream” that all those who have fallen away would return back to faithful service to the Lord. The Lord’s instruction to those who left their first love is to repent (Revelation 2:4-5). Therefore, let’s all seek out those who have fallen away, and let’s encourage them to repent, and to return back to the Lord. Let’s pray for those we know who are unfaithful that they will return to faithful service (James 5:16), and always remember, “if anyone one among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20). So, “I have a dream” that all those who have fallen away would return back to faithful service to the Lord.

### **That All of God’s Children Would Be Steadfast, Immovable, and Always Abound In The Work of The Lord.**

In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul’s exhortation to the saints in Corinth was “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” So, “I have a dream” that all of God’s children would always remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For, it is such a privilege for one to be called a child of God (1 John 3:1), and children of God need to be ever mindful of the fact that Jesus gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

So, brethren, let us all be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For, “I have a dream” that all of God’s children will be steadfast, immovable, and always abound in the work of the Lord.

Once again, “I have a dream.”

*✍️ Brad Phillips*

## Helping Others - To Heaven Or Hell

We know that preparing for judgment is the most important thing in this life. Jesus taught that if we were to “gain the whole world, and lose our own soul” we would be making a terrible trade (Mark 8:36,37).

Knowing this to be true, we should earnestly seek to convince others - especially those closest to us - of the urgency of obeying the gospel. Everything we do and say should be calculated to produce the salvation of their souls.

It is a sad thing to see some Christians who don't seem to understand that they are negatively impacting these people who should be most important to them. When unbelievers (even our own family and close friends) can observe us compromising our spiritual priorities (including forsaking the assemblies) in order to engage (oftentimes with them) in other activities (such as ball games, parties, secular organizations, etc.), we have given them a firm push in the direction of hell.

Paul urged Titus to “show thyself a pattern of good works” (Titus 2:7). And he told Timothy to be “an example of the believers” (1 Timothy 4:12). It is clear that the apostle understood that the teaching and preaching of these two young evangelists would be either helped or hindered by the kind of personal examples they portrayed. Surely it is the same with us.

If we are genuinely concerned about the souls of others, common sense dictates that we should never let them see us compromise our faith or priorities.

Think about it Christian. Are you helping others - especially those closest to you - to go to heaven or to hell?

*✍ Greg Gwin*

## This Hit Home For Me

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries.

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! You help them change their batteries.

Some need AA...attention and affection; some need AAA...attention, affection, and acceptance; some need C...compassion; some need D...direction. And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

Author unknown

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### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[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 .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

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