

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 6

2022

## Old Issues Do Not Go Away

Back in the 1950s and 60s, our brethren faced the daunting task of dealing with issues within the church such as, the supporting of orphan homes and the sponsoring church arrangement. Now, although many today consider these things to be issues of the past, the truth is, they are still issues today.

For instance, I once read an article in an issue of the “Hoosier Topics” about the church of Christ in Cloverdale, Indiana. In that article, I read the following, “It is not always easy to know the best way to donate funds. The Cloverdale church of Christ has partnered with two groups, for several years that we feel best handle the monetary donations.” I went on to read, “By having no debt, other than normal expenses, we seek to use God’s money to further spread His word. More than 60 percent of the contribution is used to help missionaries in six different areas as well as supporting preaching school students and two children’s homes in Indiana.”

Now, some may ask, what’s the big deal? Well, first of all, there is no authority given in the Scriptures for any local church to send their money to any other local church or organization to distribute their funds for the preaching of the

gospel. You see, we have an example in Philippians 4:15-18, where funds were sent directly to Paul to help aid in his necessities while he preached the gospel, which gives us an approved example to follow today. Therefore, if one is preaching the gospel of Christ, and is in need of financial support, the funds need to be sent directly to the one in need of the support (i.e. the preacher), and not to some other local church or organization to distribute the funds as they see fit.

Next, we also have no Scriptural authority given for a local church to send monetary funds to sponsor orphan homes. Again, we are to follow the commands and approved examples given in the Scriptures on how to use the Lord’s money, and we have no command or example given for the support of orphan homes, but rather local churches are to only assist and distribute to the needs of the saints (Romans 12:13, 15:26).

Now, I know there are many who would believe that these issues make no difference what so ever. For many would quote the apostle Paul and say, “as we have opportunity let us do good to all...” (Galatians 6:10). However, the problem with that is, Paul is not speaking here in reference to the responsibility of the local church, but rather he’s speaking in reference to the responsibility of the individual Christian.

Therefore, may we all always strive to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15) and let’s always follow the doctrine of Christ (2 John 9) rather than the teachings of men (Matthew 15:9). For, as we have learned, old issues do not go away. So, let’s always be on guard against these matters, and let’s do all that we do, in word or deed in the name of (i.e. by the authority of) the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17).

*✍️ Brad Phillips*

## How Could It Be An Accident?

For some, the world, the universe, and everything just happened by chance. They claim that it all was some big accident that created us all. I know many have a hard time believing in God, but I have a more challenging time seeing how they could accept all of creation just appeared out of thin air.

No one walks up to a brand-new house, car, or anything newly made and says, wow, there must have been a severe accident that took place. We don't sit back and think about how big an explosion there had to be for something like this to appear.

Colossians 1:16-17: 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Every day, the stuff we see has a designer and a creator (sometimes the same person). Someone who comes up with an idea and then starts to work with it and tweaks it until they are happy with the final design. This world was no accident. It has a designer and a creator.

Genesis 1:1: In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light...9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so...11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. God designed it all.

How can we deny a creator for the human body? With all the different organs, different bones, and the nerve system that connects to it all. There are so many parts of the body that all work perfectly together, and how we ask, how did it come to be?

Genesis 2:7: then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature... 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

God is our creator, and we should give the credit that He is do. Without Him, we would not have this beautiful world, and we would not exist either.

*Brandon Hathaway*

## Slow To Anger

Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (Proverbs 16:32)

Juwan Howard, head men's basketball coach at Michigan, has been all over the news lately. Coach Howard recently struck an opposing coach following his team's loss to Wisconsin. His inability to rule his spirit has resulted in severe consequences.

What Coach Howard did is not unique with him. Men, women, boys and girls of all ages and backgrounds struggle with anger issues. While it is possible to be angry and sin not (Ephesians 4:26), we must guard against unleashing our wrath in a way that transgresses the will of God.

Want to be better than the mighty? Want to be greater than one who captures a city? Let's be slow to anger. Let us rule our spirits.

*David McPherson*

### 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

Brad Phillips..... (765) 720-2816