

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 27

2022

## Let's Prepare For Our Gospel Meeting

Lord willing, our gospel meeting will begin next week (April 3-8). We have invited Lanny Smith from Fishers, Indiana to bring us lessons from God's all inspired word, and we have confidence that he will be properly prepared to do just that. However, Lanny, is not the only one who should be preparing for our upcoming gospel meeting; for we all need to likewise be making some preparations for our upcoming gospel meeting. Therefore, we need to...

### **Prepare To Attend Every Day of The Meeting.**

Let's all here at Belleville prepare to attend, be excited about, and take advantage of the opportunity that we will, Lord willing, be given to come together every day during the week of April 3-8 to sing songs of praise to our Almighty God, to pray, and to hear more of His all inspired word proclaimed. So, with that said, may we all possess a like-minded attitude as David, and be joyful for the opportunity that we will have to attend the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1).

### **Prepare To Invite Others To The Meeting.**

We also need to be making preparations to invite others to come and join us during our upcoming gospel meeting. Let's invite our friends, neighbors, co-workers, family members, and anyone else whom we may have contact with in our community to come

and hear God's word proclaimed. For, we all know many who are in need of hearing the gospel message, and as James informed, the implanted word of God is able to save souls (James 1:21).

### **Prepare To Be Hospitable To All Who Attend The Meeting.**

May we all likewise prepare to be hospitable during our gospel meeting (i.e. friendly and welcoming to strangers or guests). You see, God's word puts great emphasizes on being a friendly and welcoming people, for we can find the word "greet" or "greeting" over fifty times in the Scriptures. So let's take heed to Paul's instruction, and let us all here at Belleville prepare to "be given to hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

### **Prepare To Listen Attentively To The Lessons.**

In Luke 8:18, Jesus instructed His disciples to take heed how they hear. To be simply put, Jesus was telling them to pay attention. You see, God's word demands respect, and we do need to pay attention and likewise search the Scriptures (Acts 17:11) when the word of God is being proclaimed. So, let's all prepare to have attentive ears (Nehemiah 8:3) and open hearts (Luke 8:15) during our upcoming gospel meeting.

### **Prepare To Bring Glory To God.**

Last, but certainly not least, let's all prepare to bring glory (i.e. praise and honor) unto our One, True, Almighty God. You see, the fact of the matter is, all glory forever belongs to our Almighty God (Philippians 4:20). Knowing that, let's all make sure that we here at Belleville are prepared to bring God the glory not only during the week of our gospel meeting, but always. For as Paul instructs, "...*whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Once more, my beloved brethren, I encourage us all to be making some much needed preparations for our upcoming gospel meeting (April 3-8).

✍️ Brad Phillips

## ARE CHRISTIANS UNDER LAW?

There are some religious people who are fighting a battle they cannot win. I refer to those who try to claim that we are not under any law today. Now it IS true that we cannot be **“justified”** (acquitted of sin) by law (Rm.3:20; Ga.2:16). But that is a far cry from saying that we are not “under” any kind of law. **Indeed, if we are not “under” any kind of law, then we do not need to be “justified!”** Why do I say this? Because without law, there can be no sin (Rm.4:15)! Even if you limit this “not under any kind of law” idea to Christians, then you are faced with the reality that Christians would therefore be incapable of sin. But that’s not true, either (cf. 1Jn.1:7-9)! No matter how you slice it, you simply cannot win the argument that says we are not under any kind of law today. In the rest of this article, I want to show that the Scriptures clearly teach that we ARE under law today!

Romans 8:2 says, “For the **law of the Spirit** of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

1 Corinthians 9:21 says, “to those who are without law, (I became) as without law, **though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ**, so that I might win those who are without law.”

1 Corinthians 15:56-57 says, “The sting of death is sin, and **the power of sin is the law**; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Galatian 6:2 says, “Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill **the law of Christ.**”

1 Timothy 1:8-11 says, “But we know that **the law is good, if one uses it lawfully**, realizing the fact that **law** is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, **according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God**, with which I have been entrusted.”

Hebrews 7:12 says, “For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place **a change of law** also.”

Hebrews 8:10 says, “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: **I will put My laws into their minds, and I will write them on their hearts**, And I will be their God, and they shall be My

people.”

James 1:25 says, “But one who looks intently at **the perfect law, the law of liberty**, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.”

James 2:10-12 says, “For whoever keeps **the whole law** and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. For He who said, ‘Do not commit adultery,’ also said, ‘Do not commit murder.’ Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become **a transgressor of the law**. So speak and so act as those who are to be **judged by the law of liberty.**”

James 4:11-12 says, “Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against **the law** and judges **the law**; but if you judge **the law**, you are not a **doer of the law** but a judge of it. There is only one **Lawgiver** and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?”

As we wrap this up, I remind you that we cannot be “justified” (acquitted of sin) by law. Instead, we are “justified by faith in Christ” (Ga.2:16). Our faith in Christ makes it possible to be “forgiven” of sin (Rm.4:5-8). But do not forget this one thing: faith in Christ STILL requires obedience to God’s law! (Jm.2:14-26). **The difference is that faith in LAW leads to defeat (because we sin); but faith in CHRIST leads to victory (because forgiveness is available).** I hope this helps clarify the proper place of “law” in God’s scheme of redemption.

✍️ Lanny Smith

## Our Gospel Meeting Is: April 3-8

### 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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