

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 10

2022

It's Planting Season

Friends, spring is here, farmers are currently active in the fields, and seeds are being planted daily. Therefore it is, as we call around here, “planting season” and every farmer knows that in order to harvest a crop this fall he has to now get the seed out of the barn and get busy planting.

However, with the thought of “planting season” in mind, I do not want us to focus on the planting of corn, soy beans, or any other crop, but rather I want us to take some time to focus on the urgent need to be one who is busy sowing the word of God. You see, in Luke 8:4-8 we have recorded for us what is commonly known as, “The Parable of The Sower” and in Luke 8:11-15, Jesus goes onto explain this parable. We learn from this parable that the seed being represented is the word of God (Luke 8:11), and the hearts of men and women represent the soils depicted in this parable.

So, knowing that the word of God is also known as “the seed” in the Scriptures I want to encourage us to get busy sowing the seed. For, my beloved brethren, there is an urgent need for us to be actively sowing the seed. Why?

Well, because the world is full of sin sick souls (Romans 3:23) who are in need of the gospel of Christ, and the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

Simply put, the implanted word of God is able to save souls (James 1:21). So, since there is such a great need to be spreading the gospel (i.e. “the good news”) to others let’s be diligent in sharing the gospel with everyone (Mark 16:15), let’s all be actively busy in the planting and watering the seed (1 Corinthians 3:5), and let’s all abound in the work of the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Jesus said, “*The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few*” (Matthew 9:37). Brethren, the harvest is still truly plentiful this very day, but in order to reap a harvest one must first get the seed out of the barn, be busy planting, take some time to water, and then one must leave it to God to give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:5-8).

So, once more, brethren, I remind you that it is planting season, and just as the local farmers are currently busy planting their seeds in order to produce a crop this fall, let us Christians likewise be busy in “sowing the seed of the kingdom” (Hymns for Worship #85). For, my beloved brethren, it is always planting season when it comes to sharing the good news with others, and the spiritual fields are always ready for harvest (John 4:35-36). Therefore, lift up your eyes, diligently sow the seed, and never forget, “*he who wins souls is wise*” (Proverbs 11:30).

✍️ Brad Phillips

Man and Woman – That’s It!

While I can speak only for myself, I’m not backward about saying I’m literally SICK about this “gender choice” false doctrine that permeates the news! It doesn’t matter to me in the least what gender a man or woman might want to be: the Bible tells us that isn’t their choice! It doesn’t matter a hoot to me how some think “same-sex marriage” is a marriage and legal. The Bible says it is neither a marriage (Matthew 19: 4 – 6; Romans 1:21 – 32). At the very first, “God created man in His [God’s] own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them.” (Genesis 1:27) It doesn’t matter what any state, federal government, or even Disney World might want, God settled that issue at the beginning and no man on earth can change it!

Bruce “Caitlyn” Jenner acclaimed, an admitted “transgender,” said in a recent interview that “while one can undergo the surgery for appearance or pleasure, the fact remains no one can change their biological gender!” At least he admits it! Biblically, there is never a case where a child was granted the “option” of changing gender or deciding which he/she would desire. That choice is God’s choice alone! Messing with God’s design is humiliating to both God and man! Further, every scripture relating to this subject shows that such change or practice of homosexuality is sin!

The range of how far humans will go to imbibe homosexuality seems to have no limits. Sex-change surgeries undoubtedly favor the impure mind: a mind that is discontent to be what God formed in the womb. “But God

made me this way and it’s the wrong body” is a lie and nothing but a lie! It claims GOD made a mistake and that simply cannot be true, especially in this realm. A boy that is “really a girl” or vice versa, indicates God lied. How does that agree with Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18? No, what God made in the womb is a child – a boy or a girl that through righteous instruction in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4) learns to love God and proves that love by obedience!

I muse on why the world seems so obsessed with the homosexual agenda and promotes favoritism toward their evil. But then, I must realize sin increases as long as man condones it, “evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:13). What a wonderful world this is when assembled with souls who love God enough to obey Him! That’s why we Christians need to stand strong for the TRUTH and not fear opposing that which is sinful! In that reality, we must muse!

✍ Mike Davis

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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