

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

June 12

2022

“Back to Basics”

A coach of a football team was being interviewed following his team’s embarrassing loss to a much weaker team. He said that it was going to be necessary for his team to “get back to the basics” if they wished to be a winning team. The coach realized that the team had not built a winning tradition on the “razzle-dazzle” and “hot-dog” plays, but had done so by concentrating on the “basics” of good football. When the team forgot the “basics” and engaged in the “exciting” and the “unusual plays” they had momentary success (maybe one touchdown) and caused much excitement among the spectators. However this success was short-lived and the excitement did not last when the team was unable to win consistently with such play. They needed to get “back to the basics” if they were to have long-term success.

I believe there is a lesson in the above story for members of the body of Christ. It seems that many members (including some preachers) become bored with “the basics” when it comes to serving God. They decide that we need something new and more exciting. To simply preach the

gospel of Christ and encourage men and women to abide in the teaching of God’s word in all they say and do is just “too old fashioned” and boring to them. So, they come up with something “new” and exciting. They appeal to people with recreation and entertainment. They devise various social projects and make them the work of the church. They begin to sound like denominational theologians rather than preachers of the gospel of Christ. As a result of such actions these brethren meet with what they consider success. They attract attention and their numbers increase. There is “excitement” in their midst. They are “on the move.” However, the new soon wears off these “new” projects and it soon becomes apparent that there is no real and lasting value to these “new and exciting” ways. To have such lasting value we must get back to the basics.

We must realize that the long and lasting value is in doing that which will bring God’s favor upon us. We can not turn away from “the basics” of His will and expect to please Him. We may receive some momentary “pleasure” or “excitement” from doing “our own thing” but we must remember that such pleasure is but “for a season” (Hebrews 11:25).

Brethren, let us get back to telling men and women that "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Let's tell them that Christ has "all authority" (Matthew 28:18-20). Declare unto them that there is "one body, and one Spirit, ... one hope ..., one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God ..." (Ephesians 4:4-6). Let's encourage all men to "speak the same thing that there be no division" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

I realize that in doing this we will be accused of being "narrow-minded" and "tradition bound." Some will say that our teaching and practices are "out-dated" and are not relevant to the needs of modern man. Others will say that we believe that "only your little group" is going to be saved. However, there is something very notable about the things I suggested we should get back to teaching; they are found in the word of God.

May I ask, "What's wrong with just telling men and women what we find revealed in the word of God?" If men have not done what the Bible teaches one must do to receive the forgiveness of sin what right do I have to suggest to him that he is OK and is acceptable before God? If one who has been baptized into Christ sins what right do I have to tell him that so long as he was sincere or was ignorant of his sin he is justified? What is wrong with simply telling such a one that he should repent and confess his sins (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9)?

Something else may sound more appealing and may attract more people for the moment but if men and women are to be saved (have long term success) they must "get back to the basics" of God's word. We can not improve upon it. When we content ourselves with following "the basics" of God's word we will meet with eternal success, that home in heaven with God, Christ and the righteous of all time.

✍ James Hahn

“Such As I Am”

Paul, in his reply to king Agrippa, expressed the desire that all who heard him might "become such as I am." Paul was a dedicated Christian. He wanted others to be the same. Would you want others to be "such as you are?" What if every member of this congregation was just as dedicated as you are? What if every member put forth just the same amount of effort as you do? What if every member showed the same dedication to teaching others that you do? What if every member gave to the work as you do? Would this congregation be stronger or weaker if such were the case? Each and every one of us should so live that we would desire others to be "such as I am."

✍ James Hahn

Gospel Meeting

June 12-17

Preacher: James Hahn

Meeting Monday-Friday at 7pm

Belleville church of Christ

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

www.bellevillechurch.net

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

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