

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 23

2022

The Lord Is Not Slack Concerning His Promise

There have been many from the first century until now, who have doubted whether or not Christ will ever return. Knowing that, let's look into the all inspired word of God, and let's examine the very important question referring to the return of Christ. Beginning with...

Christ Said He Would Return.

Jesus, in giving words of comfort to His disciples said, *"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"* (John 14:2-3). Here, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ confirms that He will come again.

The Apostles Were Told That Christ Would Return.

Luke, recorded concerning the ascension of Christ into heaven, *"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:10-11). While the apostles were watching Christ ascend into heaven, they were reassured that He would also return in like manner.

The Apostle Paul Said Christ Would Return.

Paul, in his first epistle to the Thessalonian brethren wrote, *"For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep"* (1 Thessalonians 4:15). Here, the inspired apostle Paul affirms the fact that Christ will someday come again.

The Inspired Hebrews Writer Said Christ Would Return.

In writing about the great sacrifice of Christ, the inspired Hebrews writer penned, *"...so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation"* (Hebrews 9:28). Here, we have another example of an inspired writer acknowledging the fact that Christ will someday return.

The Apostle Peter Said Christ Would Return.

The apostle Peter declared, *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night..."* (2 Peter 3:9-10). You see, Peter guided by the Holy Spirit also said, the Lord is coming, but when, no one knows!

My friend, although Christ has not yet returned, He **is Not slack concerning His promise**. Therefore, we all need to watch and be readily prepared (Matthew 24:42), for there is a great day coming, when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will return.

So remember, and forget not, our Lord will keep His promise to come again. For, as we have learned, and as it has been recorded in God's all inspired word, the Lord is not slack concerning His promise (2 Peter 3:9).

✍️ Brad Phillips

“What Am I Living For?”

The story has been told of an early Christian who was about to be put to death because he would not deny his Lord. His executioner was unable to understand his apparent lack of fear in the face of death. In fact, there was a manifestation of joy on the part of the Christian. Finally, the executioner could contain himself no longer. He exclaimed, "I am about to kill you! How can you remain so calm and happy?" To which the Christian replied, "Kill me, and you take from me that which I cannot keep, and you give me that which I cannot lose."

This Christian had learned a very important lesson that we all need to learn. He had not only learned how to live, he had learned how to face death. We hear so much talk about how we should live and how we can give meaning to our life, however I am convinced that many have not even come close to learning the real secret to happy and meaningful living. Most people seem to have the idea that to be happy in this life we must have something "worth living for." With this thought in mind many turn to money, pleasure or other things of this world, hoping to find that which is worth "living for." All such attempts to find happiness end in failure.

The faithful Christian has learned that the things of this life are very empty when it comes to giving meaning and purpose to one's life. The only thing really important is so living now that we may gain eternal life when this life is over. The Christian is willing to die rather than deny his Lord. This is the thing that is of real value. Someone has truly said, "If we have nothing worth dying for then we really have very little worth living for." Jesus said, "What shall a man profit, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

✍ James Hahn

God’s Plan of Salvation

Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Believe in Jesus Christ. (John 8:24)

Repent of your sins. (Acts 17:30)

Confess Jesus Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

Be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)

Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth: to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Romans 1:16)

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.

Elders

David Lockhart (317) 714-6213

David Thomas (317) 945-8539

Evangelist

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816