

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 30

2022

## Take Heed Lest You Fall

Unfortunately, there are some brethren today who think that they are beyond being able to fall from the faith. However, the apostle Paul declared to the saints in Corinth, “*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall*” (1 Corinthians 10:12). So, with those inspired words of Paul in mind, let’s examine what the Bible has to say about falling from the faith.

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit foretold, “*Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron...*” (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Here, the inspired apostle confirms that some will depart from the faith, meaning that some will reject the truth of the gospel which they once received. Paul would go on to later write to Timothy about one who did depart from the faith, “*for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...*” (2 Timothy 4:10). Brethren, beware, don’t be like Demas and love this present world, but instead take heed lest you fall, and always strive to keep the faith and remain faithful unto death (Revelation 2:10).

The Hebrews writer warned, “*Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin*” (Hebrews 3:12-13) In this passage, the inspired writer expresses the importance of encouraging and edifying one another, so that we will be less likely to be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Again, it is not impossible for one who once believed and was faithful to depart from the living God. Therefore, take heed to this warning and instruction from the Hebrews writer lest you fall.

The apostle Peter likewise warns Christians about falling from the faith when he penned, “*You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked...*” (2 Peter 3:17). Sadly, there are some who twist the truth of the Scriptures, and therefore deceive many. However, Peter warned about being led away by error, and if we don’t search the Scriptures to see if the things that are being taught are true (Acts 17:11), or if we don’t study to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15), we too can become overcome by error and fall.

Paul wrote, “*For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself*” (Galatians 6:3). My beloved brethren, we all need to humble ourselves and take heed lest we fall, for it is possible that any of us could fall from the faith. Therefore, may we all always strive to encourage one another daily, search the Scriptures daily, and always to seek to put God and His will before all, lest we fall!

✍ Brad Phillips

## The Sin of Hypocrisy

It is a sorry thing to engage in lies, deceit, lip service, etc. But that is exactly what the hypocrite does. The hypocrite is like a play actor, pretending to be something he is not. Too often hypocrisy takes place among those claiming to be children of God. Shame on you and shame on me if/when that's the case with us. The Bible speaks of hypocrisy and clearly shows it to be sin.

1Peter 2:1 - "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,". This is what the Christian is to do. Lay aside hypocrisy. Let it not be named among believers.

Job 27:8 - "For what is the hope of the hypocrite, Though he may gain much, If God takes away his life?" What hope has the hypocrite? Certainly not heaven. No hope, very sad.

Matthew 25:41 - Jesus speaks of the unfaithful servant being appointed "...his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth". Here the Lord specifies the hypocrite's place with all the lost. Hell will be home for the mere pretender.

Friend, if you claim to be a Christian, be Christ-like. Guard your body and mind. Be pure. Don't be a hypocrite!

*David McPherson*

## 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](http://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