

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 25

2022

Who Needs Christ?

Sadly, there are many people today who believe that they are not in need of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, all need to know that Christ is needed by....

The Unrighteous.

The unrighteous are defined as those who are: “not righteous, wicked, sinful, or evil.” In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, the apostle Paul wrote, “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.*” My friend, the word of God does not get any more clearer than that, and here we learn that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. However, Paul goes on to say, “*And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God*” (1 Corinthians 6:11). Therefore, we can see from these passages that the unrighteous are in need of Jesus Christ, in order to be able to inherit the kingdom of God.

The God-Fearing.

Those who are God-fearing are those who have a deep reverence for God. In Acts 10:1-2, Luke recorded, “*There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.*”

Here we learn that Cornelius was a good man, one who feared God, and one who always prayed to Him. However, Peter was sent to preach Jesus Christ to Cornelius’ household (Acts 10:34-43) and then we learn, “*he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord*” (Acts 10:48). So, you see, even those who are morally good and God fearing are likewise in need of Jesus Christ.

The Worldly-Wise.

One who is worldly-wise is one who possess a practical understanding of human affairs. In 1 Corinthians 1:21, Paul penned, “*For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.*” What was that message that was being preached? Well, notice in verse 23, Paul informed that the message preached was Christ crucified. You see, my friends, the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God (1 Corinthians 3:19), but as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:30, Christ Jesus became for us wisdom from God-and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, we can see that the worldly-wise are also among those who are in need of Jesus Christ.

The One Who Thinks Not.

Now, we have learned that Christ is needed by the unrighteous, the God-fearing, and the worldly-wise, but He is also needed by those who think that they are not in need of Him. How do I know this? Well, in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8, Paul revealed that the Lord Jesus will take vengeance upon those who do not know God, and upon those who do not obey the gospel of Christ. Paul then says, “*These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...*” (2 Thessalonians 1:9). Friend, take heed to that warning of the apostle Paul, for it does not get any more serious than that. Therefore, may this warning help those who think that they are not in need of Christ, realize their need for Christ.

My friend, the fact of the matter is, we are all in need of Christ. For we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23), and redemption from sin is only in the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19).

✍️ Brad Phillips

What We KNOW About Christmas

The world is fully into the seasonal observance of Christmas. While there are many myths and misconceptions about Christmas, there are some facts that we KNOW. For instance:

1) We know that the Bible does not reveal the date of Jesus' birth. God simply did not choose to supply this information.

2) Biblical evidence indicates that Jesus was almost certainly NOT born on December 25th. The fact that shepherds were in the field at night tending their flocks on the night that Jesus was born points to a date that would have been in a warmer month of the year. By late December the flocks would not have been kept out in the fields at night.

3) The religious observance of Jesus' birth did not begin until several centuries after the New Testament was written. There is nothing in the New Testament that indicates a special "Christmas" celebration by first century Christians.

4) Many historical references confirm that December 25th was designated by the Catholic church as a day to celebrate the birth of Christ. This celebration first took place in Rome around 350AD. There is clear evidence that this date was chosen to divert a longstanding pagan tradition of worshiping the sun at this time of year.

5) We KNOW that Jesus was born of a virgin in Bethlehem about 2,000 years ago. He came to save lost men from their sins (Luke 19:10). We are grateful beyond measure for the wonderful gift that God gave us in sending His Son to this earth. But the Scriptures give us no authority for a special religious observance of His birth (Colossians 3:17).

✍ Greg Gwin

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

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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.

Elders

David Lockhart (317) 714-6213

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Evangelist

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