

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

January 15

2023

## God's Law or Man's

As a gospel preacher, I know well the dangers of speaking more of politics than the gospel of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, our present times demand we of TRUTH speak up! If the gospel is hidden, it is hidden to the lost (2 Corinthians 4:3). Further, during the past few years, the evidence is clear that many of our political leaders are endeavoring with great vigor to ignore God's Law altogether to further their desires of "inclusion" for all walks of life as "equal" when God's law clearly distinguishes between GOOD and EVIL. Yes, if it were possible (which it is NOT – Matthew 24:35) many lawmakers would eliminate God's law entirely, thinking as Israel once thought, and perished for the evil! (Isaiah 30:8 – 17).

This past week, President Biden signed into law the "Respect for Marriage Act." Indicating his definition of marriage, Biden said, "Marriage is a simple proposition. Who do you love? And will you be loyal to that person you love?" Biden further said, "For most of our nation's history, we denied ... same-sex couples from these protections." [The law] failed to treat them with equal dignity and respect. And now, this law requires ... same-sex marriage[s] must be recognized as legal in every state in the nation." Mr. President, YOU ARE WRONG!

God created MALE and FEMALE (Genesis 1:27). He did so because it was not right that MAN should be alone (Genesis 2:18). He, therefore, created a helpmeet (a helper fit for MAN'S needs) for him (ibid.) God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the MAN, took from HIM a rib, and made a WOMAN (meaning taken from the womb of man) and brought HER to the MAN. "And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and

flesh of my flesh: SHE shall be called WOMAN, because she was taken out of MAN. Therefore shall a MAN leave HIS father and mother, and shall cleave unto HIS WIFE: and THEY shall be one flesh." (Genesis 2:21 – 24)

(Yes, I realize I've used "politically incorrect pro-nouns" here, but I'm endeavoring to teach GOD'S LAW, not man's law!)

In the law of Moses, men who engaged in "same-sex" relationships were to be stoned to death. (Leviticus 20:13) In the law of Christ (i.e., New Testament) the inspired apostle Paul wrote, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. "(Romans 1:26 – 32) Mr. President, God's law always supersedes man's law. Therefore, Mr. President and all those of Congress who approved this act, you are wrong! God will punish the wicked! (2 Thessalonians 1:7 – 9)

Bible students note the several cases in the Old Testament when Israel went about to establish their own righteousness and would not submit to the righteousness of God (Romans 10:3 speaks to this fact. See also Romans 15:4). Dare we to think God has changed His mind regarding what He called "abominable?" The CHRISTIAN must defend Christ and the gospel (Philippians 1: 12 – 17; Ephesians 6:10 – 20). We Christians must note the earliest members of the Lord's church suffered severe persecution when they upheld the Law of God rather than the laws and traditions of man. They were willing to suffer shame for the Lord's cause (Acts 5:41). Are we as willing? (2 Timothy 3:12)

I know individuals who are presently ashamed to be called “citizens of the United States” because of the debauchery they see in the present leadership throughout the country; from the local levels to the highest offices in the land! Some of these once bravely defended this country. Can you blame them for expressing their shame and discontent for such acceptance of blatant evils? But more to the point: Christians must not stand sheepishly in the background saying, “But what can we do? It’s the law of the land.” We can and we must uphold the blood-stained banner of Prince Emanuel and recognize we are NOT judged eternally by man’s law: we are judged by how well we obeyed the supreme law of all – GOD’S law! (Revelation 20: 12 – 15)

Therefore, let me remind you of Joshua’s cry: “Choose you this day whom ye will serve.” (Joshua 24:15) In today’s world, it won’t be a popular choice: but then again, I’m not here to please men, I’m here to serve the God of heaven! What about you?

✍️ *Mike Davis*

## What Is The Best Reason For Doing Anything?

There are often a variety of reasons for why people do what they do. For instance, many will only choose to help another in need as long as there is something of personal benefit in it for them. Many will likewise only do this or that if there is an opportunity for them to gain financially, and there are many others who will only do certain things in order to be seen by men. However, do you know what the best reason is for doing anything? Well, I suggest to you that the best reason for doing anything is to do it because it is right (Read: Ephesians 6:1).

You see, we should not be doing this or that for the purpose of personal gain, financial gain, or to be noticed by men, but rather we should be doing the things that we do simply because it is the right thing to do (James 4:17). Unfortunately, doing the right thing is often “counter-cultural” in today’s “what’s in it for me” society. For, sadly, there are many today who know to do the right thing, but they just choose not to do the right thing. Now, why do you think that is so?

Well, first of all, I suggest to you that doing the right thing is not always the easiest thing to do, and many will often opt to take the easy

route, rather than to do what is right (Matthew 7:13-14). Secondly, things such as pride, selfishness, covetousness, etc. often get in the way of doing that which is right, and these foolish things likewise often keep people from doing the right thing (Mark 10:17-22).

However, whatever the reason might be for why people may choose not to do what is right, the fact of the matter is, there is no acceptable excuse for not doing what is right. Therefore, be one who always seeks to do what is right to all (1 Thessalonians 5:15), never grow weary in doing what is right (Galatians 6:9), and even though you may sometimes suffer for doing what is right always choose to do the right thing (1 Peter 3:14-17).

My friend, I now ask, are you always striving to do what is right? If not, why not? For again, we all need to strive to always do what is right, simply because it is right, and we need to keep in mind that we will all reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7-8). So, once more, do the right thing, and always remember, the best reason to do anything is to do it because it is right!

✍️ *Brad Phillips*

**Belleville church of Christ**  
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[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 .....	4:00 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
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