

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 12

2023

## Why You Should Repent

Before we discuss why you should repent, let's first briefly explain what it means for someone to repent. Repentance means "to think differently; reconsider; a reversal of one's direction." Repent simply means to "turn away from evil and do good" (1 Pet. 3:11). Now here are some reasons from the Bible why you should repent.

### Because You Have Sinned.

I have sinned. All have sinned against God in transgressing His law (Rom. 3:23; 1 Jn. 3:4). Sin brings death (Rom. 6:23), thus our need for repentance.

### Because Of God's Goodness.

"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" (Rom. 2:4). How good has God been to each one of us? "For God so loved world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

### Because God Commands It.

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). We

will obey God's command to repent if we love Him (1 Jn. 5:3).

### Because It Is Necessary For Salvation.

"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, '**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:37-38). "**Repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19; cf. 2:38).

### Because Of The Day Of Judgment.

Jesus warned, "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3, 5). The apostle Peter reminds us that, "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" (2 Pet. 3:9).

The command to repent is probably God's most challenging command. Why? Because repentance requires change in a person's life and so many refuse to change. Repentance demands that the sinner turn from his evil and then do what is good (Ezek. 14:6; 18:30; Acts 26:18, 20).

Repentance will occur when a person humbles themselves, possesses godly sorrow, and confesses their sins to God (Ps. 51:16-17; 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 Jn. 1:9). Repent to be saved, and to spend eternity in heaven!

✍️ Jesse Flowers

# You Can Never Fool God

I once heard someone say, “You can fool all of the people some of the time. You can fool some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time, and you can never fool God.”

How true, right? You see, to fool someone is to make them believe something that is not true, and man has always tried to get away with fooling his fellow man. For instance, Joseph’s brothers fooled their dad concerning the disappearance of their brother (Genesis 37: 28, 31-32) and they had him to believe that Joseph was dead (Genesis 37:33-35).

Now, not only do men sometimes seek to fool their fellow man, but they also sometimes even attempt to fool God. For instance, Ananias and Sapphira attempted such (Acts 5:1-4). However, how did that work out for them? (Read: Acts 5:5-10)

The fact of the matter is, although one may be able to sometimes fool some, one will never be able to fool God, for God sees our every move (Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:13). He knows all about us and knows all things (Psalm 69:5, 139:1-4; 1 John 3:20), and He is not and will not be mocked (Galatians 6:7-8).

So, although you may try, and sometimes be able to fool others by painting them a better image of yourself than who you really are, know that you can never fool God (1 Samuel 16:7). Also, think about this, you may be one who possesses a faith that is so superficial, a faith which really means nothing to you, but yet you still “play church” and “put on a good show” on Sundays and fool some, but may you keep in mind, you will not be able to fool everybody, for some will still perceive your unfaithfulness and wickedness (Matthew 22:18), and always remember, you will never fool God (Jeremiah 17:9-10).

Therefore, do not be deceived, my friends, and think that you can ever fool God. So, always remember, “you can pull the wool over some people’s eyes, but you can never pull the wool over God’s eyes” and no secrets can or will be keep from Him (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

*✍ Brad Phillips*

# 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 .....	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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