

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 12

2023

## How Will You Be Remembered?

The other day while I was traveling on my way back home, a song by the country music band Rascal Flatts titled “How They Remember You” came over the radio. As I listened to this song the words “You’re gonna leave a legacy, no matter what you do. It ain’t a question of if they will, it’s how they remember you” caught my attention. So, thinking about that, I ask, how will you be remembered?

### Will You Be Remembered For Your Righteousness?

Righteousness can be defined as, “the quality or state of being morally correct and justifiable.” In Proverbs 10:7, it is recorded, “The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.” Think about that. You see, those who live a life of righteousness will be remembered and favorably talked about by others long after their physical death, and are considered to be blessed. However, on the flip side of that coin, those who live a life of wickedness will not so favorably be remembered and spoken of long after they have passed. So, I ask, how will you be remembered? Will you be remembered for living a righteous life?

### Will You Be Remembered For Your Wisdom?

Wisdom denotes “the quality of being wise, the quality of having knowledge and exercising good judgment.” We learn in Proverbs 12:8, “A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.” You see, a man shows proof of his wisdom by properly conducting himself in his manner of life, and a man who exhibits wisdom and exercises good judgment will be a man who is worthy of praise, and he will be one who is not easily forgotten. On the contrary, one of perverse heart (i.e. a vain and senseless man) is one not worthy of praise. So, remember, “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold”

(Proverbs 3:13-14). I now ask, what about you? Will you be remembered and commended for your wisdom?

### Will You Be Remembered For Your Good Name?

A “good name” implies to a persons good reputation, and it denotes a persons highly and favorable standing among others. In Proverbs 22:1, we find these words of the wise man, “A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.” The Scriptures also inform us, “A good name is better than precious ointment...” (Ecclesiastes 7:1). My friends, we all should strive to live a life free from deceit, and we should strive to live a life of righteousness, so that we can obtain and retain a good name, knowing that a good name is of more value than silver or gold. So, what about you? When your time on this earth is no more, will you be well spoken of by others? Will you be remembered for your good name?

### Will You Be Remembered For Your Good Works?

“Good works” can denote “acts of love, kindness, or good will.” In Matthew 26:10-13, we learn about Mary, the sister of Lazarus, who did a good work for Jesus, and it is because of her act of love, kindness, and good will toward our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ that she is to be remembered. You see, it is certainly hard to forget one who spent their life on this earth expressing acts of love, kindness, and good will towards others. Therefore, may we love our neighbors as thy self (Matthew 22:39). May we be kind to one another (Ephesians 4:32), and may we not forget to do good and to share, knowing that with such sacrifices God is well pleased (Hebrews 13:16). So, what about you? Do you promote good works? Will you be remembered for your acts of love, kindness, and good will?

### Will You Be Remembered For Your Genuine Faith?

A “genuine faith” simply means, “a sincere, whole-hearted faith, free from hypocrisy.” We are informed about the genuine faith of Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:5, and here we read about the apostle Paul calling to remembrance the sincere faith in which Timothy possessed. Simply put, Paul remembered Timothy for his sincere, whole-hearted faith which was free from hypocrisy. So, I ask, How will you be remembered? Will you be remembered as one who possessed a genuine faith? Will you be remembered as one who finished the race by keeping the faith, and by fighting the good fight of faith? How will they remember you?

Once more, when your time on this earth is no more, it is not a question of if they (i.e. the people we leave behind) will remember you, but rather, the question is, how will they remember you? So again I ask, how will you be remembered?

✍️ Brad Phillips

## In God We Trust

Psalm 16 is a short Psalm and highly messianic. Much of it is quoted in the New Testament and applied to Jesus. However, it holds many lessons applicable to all of us. One especially important lesson was that the Messiah put His full and complete trust in the LORD (vv. 1, 2):

“Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.  
O my soul, you have said to the LORD,  
‘You are my LORD,  
My goodness is nothing apart from You.’”

We, like Him, must put our full, complete, total, and absolute trust in God and realize our “goodness is nothing” apart from Him. It is folly to seek to establish our “own righteousness” (Rom. 10:3). That is self-righteousness and is condemned (Matt. 23). On the contrary, we must submit “to the righteousness of God” (Rom. 10:3) which is the gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16-17). We must have the attitude of the “publican” who, when he prayed, “would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, ‘God be merciful to me a sinner’” (Lk. 18:13).

Another parallel lesson was that the Messiah’s mission was not to do His own will but God’s will (v. 8). Jesus confirmed this in John 6:38 when He said, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” As a result of His total focus on God He could say (v. 8) that God was at His “right hand” and He “shall not be moved.” If we expect that result, we too must have the same total dedication to doing God’s will and not our own.

Finally, because of the Messiah’s compliant nature insofar

as doing God’s will was concerned, He had total confidence beyond death. In vv. 9-11 He says:

“Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;  
My flesh also will rest in hope.  
For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,  
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.  
You will show me the path of life;  
In Your presence is fullness of joy;  
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

This was fulfilled when death and the grave could not hold Jesus and He was resurrected and ascended to heaven where God glorified Him forever (Acts 2:27-31; 13:35-38; Heb. 1:3; 2:9). We too can share in His eternal glory (Rom. 8:17; 2 Thess. 2:14) but only if, like Him, our “food is to do [God’s] will” (Jn. 4:34). What’s on your menu today?

*✍ Craig Thomas*

### 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.

#### Evangelist

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