

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 9

2023

You May Only Have One Chance

The other day while my wife and I were at the grocery store, I spotted a “Chance Card” on the check-out counter. As I observed this card it read, “I often see a person only once in my life: on the street, at a restaurant, in line at the grocery store, and not for very long. That means I only have one chance to tell you that you matter. One chance to tell you about the truth that changed my life and that it can also change yours.”

Now, although the “Chance Card” had good intentions, the sad part is, it was proclaiming error pertaining to what one must do to be saved. For, at the end of the card it said, “You can talk to Jesus and make the choice to receive Him at any time, and in any place.”

However, as I got to thinking about this “Chance Card,” I couldn’t help but to think about how true it is that we do often see some people only once in our lifetime, and about how we often do only have one

chance to tell someone about the truth, the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

So, knowing that, my beloved brethren, I challenge you to think about the fact that you may only have one chance to tell someone about the gospel of Christ, and I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity that you may have to tell someone about the gospel of Christ, whether it be on the street, at a restaurant, or in line at the grocery store, remembering that you may only have one chance to do so.

Therefore brethren, as a servant of the Lord, let us all strive to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself to teach others about the gospel, so that they too may hear and know the truth (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Likewise, always be mindful brethren that God desires for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth (1 Timothy 2:4), and that He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

Once more, remember brethren, and never forget, you may only have one chance to tell someone about the soul-saving gospel of Jesus Christ!

✍ Brad Phillips

The Great Invitation

We live in a time in which few people seem to care for us. David knew this feeling, and wrote, no man cares for my soul (Ps. 142:4). However, we read Peter's words, "Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7). Jesus wept while standing at the tomb of Lazarus. He cared for Lazarus and his family and expressed this care through His weeping (John 11:35).

We know that Jesus cares for us because of His great sacrifice upon the cross (Romans 5:6-8). Before His crucifixion, Jesus made this statement, "Greater love has no one than this, than someone lay down his life for his friends (Jn. 15:13). Christ's care is seen when we read of the Lord's plan for salvation (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Our Lord wants us to be saved, and He cares enough to tell us what to do to be saved.

God wants all people to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9). Therefore, "Hear" the gospel of Christ (Rom. 10:17). "Believe" in Jesus Christ (John 8:24; Mark 16:16). "Repent" of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38). "Confess" Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:32; Acts 8:37). "Be Baptized" into Christ (Galatians 3:27), for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38). Then Jesus said, "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

These acts of obedience will bring one into a saved relationship with God. Being saved from sin can take place only as the Bible teaches. Knowing therefore the fear of the Lord, we persuade men (2 Cor. 5:11).

✍ Thornton Thomas

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

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

Brad Phillips (765) 720-2816