

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 3

2023

## Be One Who Keeps Your Word

A man who keeps his word is a man who can be counted on and trusted. Sadly, there are too many today who cannot be said to be “a man of his word.” You see, too many today have become too loose with their yea’s and or nay’s, and because of that, many today often do not carry through with their word, and are known to break their word.

However, God’s people are to be a people of their word, and they are to be a people who can be trusted to do as they say, they are to be a people who let their yea, be yea; and their nay, nay (Matthew 5:37; James 5:12). Simply put, Christians are to be truthful in all circumstances, and we need to be a people who live what we say. This means when we say we will be somewhere or that we will do something we must follow through with it. This means we must not pretend to know something, when we really do not know. This means we do not play ignorant, when we really do know an answer to something. Again, this means let your yes really mean yes, and let your no really mean no.

So how about you? Are you a man of your word? When you say that you will be somewhere or that you will do something can you be counted upon and trusted? Does your yes mean yes, and your no mean no? Can you be relied upon to follow through with your word? Does your word really mean something, and speak of your integrity? Think about this, and be honest with yourself, knowing, *“Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool”* (Proverbs 19:1).

Now, with these thoughts in mind, always strive to be one who keeps your word. Be one who says what you mean, and mean what you say. Be one who can be counted on, and trusted, rather than one who constantly backs out of your word with too much ease, and too little guilt, by trying to justify your actions by saying things such as, “I forgot” or “I just got too busy.” Be one who speaks the truth with his neighbor (Ephesians 4:25), and never forget, *“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight”* (Proverbs 12:22).

Once more, be one who keeps your word, and to emphasize the importance of this exhortation, I remind us all of the fact that all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8). Now, does that get your attention? It should, for it certainly gets my attention. Therefore, be one who keeps your word!

 Brad Phillips

# KNOW NOTHING BUT CHRIST

We can remember the statements of the older preachers, and they will always ring in our ears because they repeated them time and time again. In the beginning of almost every sermon before they took up the message proper, they would make these two declarations. "It will be my purpose to hide behind the cross and to preach nothing save Christ and him crucified," and then, "I am here to please God, not men, if men are pleased, I shall rejoice but my principle concern is that every word I shall speak will be pleasing to my God." Now many great truths are embodied in these words. If preachers today have lost the power of their message, perhaps it is because they are failing to hide behind the cross. Regardless of how old the saying may be, it is a part of the truth of the Master. Paul said in Galatians 6:14, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." No room here for a show of scholarship, a demonstration of dramatic art, or a collection of flowery phrases. Place can not be found for stories of personal success or experiences. Little use of the pronoun "I". The need today is for preachers who, with Jeremiah of old, have the word of the Lord in them like a burning fire. Who by their concern for the lost men and women in their audiences will forget the personal glory, and pour out the story of the cross, as though it were their last sermon on this earth. The message rings out from the pioneers of yesterday, when you preach hide behind the cross.

Now let us consider the last part of the familiar saying, "And I know nothing save Christ and him crucified." Paul sounded that great cry nearly two thousand years ago in I Corinthians 2:2, and it needs to be read over and over. There would never be a theory preached in the pulpits of the churches of America if this old rule were observed. There would never

be a division over the idea of some preacher who wants to write it into the faith delivered to the saints. Little sermonettes would not be the order of the day, while the masses are starving for spiritual bread. The story of the cross on Pentecost, which converted men to Christ in the first century, will convict and convince men of sin today if we will give it the opportunity.

When these older preachers stated that they wanted to please God, they were restating the principle of Paul. He looked down the avenue of time to tell Timothy, his son in the gospel, as recorded in II Tim. 4:3, "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers having itching ears." The tendency for soft and still softer preaching is sweeping over the land like the tides of the sea. Let us in answer sound again from the walls of spiritual Jerusalem the trumpet of truth, and say with Paul, "It is a small thing with me that I be judged of you."

*✍ James P. Miller*

## 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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