

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

October 8

2023

## What Can I Do For...?

"Ask not what your country can do for you; instead ask what you can do for your country."

Most have heard this quote from JFK at one point or another. Some have studied it in history class. Maybe you have heard it in shows, movies, or a documentary on the television. Then, of course, a few probably actually heard the speech when it was given.

President John Kennedy challenged the country to look within themselves; to look at others' needs and see what they can do for them. This should make us ask ourselves, what do we have to offer?

Philippians 2:5-8: Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

This is truly what our Lord did for us. Our Lord could have decided to destroy mankind, this world, and start anew at any point in time.

God did not ask what man could do for him. He is our creator and there is nothing He cannot do. So instead of being focused on Himself, He gave to us everything (John 3:16).

Philippians 2:3-4: Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

We have been called to the same mindset; to cast off selfishness because love does not seek its own (1 Corinthians 13:5).

There are many ways in which we can apply this quote to our spiritual life—asking the question, what can I do for God, the church, my neighbor, my enemy, and myself.

Many go around asking what God can do for me when He has already done so much. People look around for a congregation, asking what's in it for me and not asking what I can do to help the church grow; always looking for help but not seeking to help others.

*✍️ Brandon Hathaway*

# Taught To Teach

Matthew 28:19-20: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Teaching others the truth about Christ and unto salvation is essential. The Eunuch was unsure of the scriptures' meaning without someone to help guide him (Acts 8:31). Each of us can probably think of a person or two that was influential in helping them to get to salvation, maybe their parents, or a preacher, or spouse or a friend.

What are we supposed to do with the teaching we learn besides keeping them in our hearts? We should go forth and teach them to others. Look back up at Matthew's verse where it tells them to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you." Part of the teaching would be to teach them to go and make disciples.

Look at the example we have of Paul once he was converted.

Acts 9:18b-20 ...then he rose and was baptized; and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

It wasn't long before Paul started proclaiming his faith that Jesus is the Son of God. Anyone who obeys the gospel knows the truth and what is necessary for salvation. If they don't, how did they know they needed to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins? If we believe and know this must be done, we must be ready to defend our faith (2 Peter 3:9).

If we simply rely on the teachers here today and don't train others to teach, then we must ask who will teach tomorrow?

2 Timothy 2:2 ...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

Paul considered Timothy a child of the faith (1 Timothy 1:2) because Paul had taken him under his wing and taught him to go forth and preach the word.

Paul understood he would not always be there to continue preaching and writing to the brethren, so he taught Timothy, Titus, and others to step up and preach. However, he also knew that they would not always be there either, so they must keep passing the torch on and teach other faithful brethren to teach.

What will happen to the brethren's faith if we run out of teachers; and where will the church be? Part of our faith must be knowing how to guide others in the truth because the word that leads to salvation is for all and we must be ready to help others see the way.

*✍️ Brandon Hathaway*

## Gospel Meeting with Brandon Hathaway October 8-13

### 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

Brad Phillips ..... (765) 720-2816