

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

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The Worst Thing That Could Ever Happen To You

While recently having a conversation with someone about a difficult circumstance that arose in their life, they made the statement “This is the worst thing that could ever happen to me.” As I pondered this statement, I got to thinking about what really is the worst thing that could ever happen to someone.

Before you go any further in reading this article, pause for a moment and consider what you believe to be the worst thing possible that could ever happen to you. What did you conclude? Did you conclude that the worst thing that could ever happen to you would be to lose your spouse, to lose your child, to lose your job, or to lose your house? Did you conclude that the worst thing that could ever happen to you would be to be diagnosed with a terminal illness or to be permanently disabled by a disease or accident? Again, what came to your mind when you pondered the question of what would be the worst thing that could ever happen to you?

I venture to say that there is probably a variety of thoughts that came to your mind when you took some time to consider what the worst thing is that could ever happen to you. However, I suggest to you that the worst thing that could ever happen to you is to die in your sins. In John 8:24, Jesus speaking to the Jews who did not believe that He was the Christ said, *“Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”*

Think about that! You see, although there are a variety of things that can cause one to physically die (i.e. old age, a terminal illness, an accident etc.), the fact of the matter is, one will die one of two ways. For, one will either die in their sins (John 8:24), or one will die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13).

However, my friend, to die in your sins is the worst thing that could ever happen to you, and that is exactly why Jesus warned, *“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-where Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched-where Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire-where Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched”* (Mark 9:43-48).

Friend, do you now see why dying in your sins is the worst thing that could ever happen to you? Do you? You see, the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and not only will one be eternally separated from God if they die in their sins, but they will likewise be forever tormented in hell fire where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:41-42).

That’s a sobering thought isn’t it? So, when you think about what the worst thing is that could ever happen to you or anyone else, know that the worst thing that could ever happen to anyone is to die in their sins. Therefore, if you have not yet obeyed the gospel of Christ, don’t put it off any longer, but rather obey today and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38) never forgetting that the Lord Jesus will take vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:8-10). Maybe you have already obeyed the gospel of Christ, but you have not been faithful, please repent therefore of your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you (Acts 8:22), knowing that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Remember, my friend, if you fail to do this, you will die in your sins, and the worst thing that could happen to you, will happen to you.

The choice is yours my friend, but my hope is that all will choose to obey the gospel of Christ and remain faithful unto death, knowing that to do so will result in dying in the Lord and receiving rest from your labors (Revelation 14:13), along with a crown of life (Revelation 2:10), and it will keep one from experiencing the worst thing that could ever happen!

✍ Brad Phillips

Dangers To The Local Church

We must realize that there are some things that must be handled in a very serious manner because of their potential danger. There are warning signs placed on explosives that indicate special notice is to be taken to ensure the safety of those who are nearby. There are some dangerous things that a local churches need to be cautious of so that the church is not hindered from its work and so that souls are not lost. Let us consider a few:

False Teaching

When there are those who are not content to stick with the truth of God's word, there is danger. Those who teach take on a great responsibility and need to be very diligent to only present the truth. The hearer bears a responsibility as well to search the scriptures to find out whether the teaching is according to truth (Eph. 5:11; 2 Tim. 4:1-4).

Following Preachers

When there are those who follow the preacher instead of the Lord, there is danger. While there is a certain amount of respect that is due to those who have given their lives to preaching the gospel, it is important that we do not worship men. We must carefully evaluate every man's teaching to make sure it is true to the Bible (1 Cor. 1:11-13).

Selfishness

When there are those that are set on having their own way in the church there is danger. We must always remember the church is the Lord's. Our attitudes and opinions must be kept in check. We must learn to imitate the self-less attitude of Christ (Phil. 2:3-4; Rom. 12:3).

Lack of Hospitality

When the Christians fail to individually extend hospitality to one another, there is danger. Great benefits come when individuals gather together and enjoy one another's company. Certainly the church is not a social club, but that is no excuse for us failing to use our individual homes for hospitality (Rom. 12:13; 2 Pet. 4:9).

Tongues That Are Out of Control

When there is gossip, slander, backbiting, lying, and malicious words, there is danger. Our words can cause great harm to others. We will be held accountable for the damage we do with our words. What a shame that these things would ever be present among God's people (Prov. 6:16-19).

✍️ Paul Adams

Belleville church of Christ

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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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