

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

January 14

2024

“I Have A Dream...”

The phrase “I have a dream” was made famous by Martin Luther King Jr. during his iconic speech at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, and the main message of King’s “I have a dream” speech emphasized his desire for equal rights, despite one’s skin color.

However, I would like to borrow the phrase “I have a dream,” and emphasize my desire for the following.

That All Would Obey The Gospel of Christ and Be Saved.

“I have a dream” that all would obey the gospel of Christ and be saved, and in 1 Timothy 2:4, we learn about God’s desire for all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth. Now, just as God desires for all to be saved, I likewise, desire for all to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ and be saved. For, the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16), and the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). However, those who neglect to obey the gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9), and will be eternally lost. So, “I have a dream” that all will obey the gospel of Christ and be saved.

That All Those Who Have Fallen Away Would Return Back To Faithful Service.

Sadly, there have been many who have laid down their sword and turned their back on the Lord, and “I have a dream” that all those who have fallen away would return back to faithful service to the Lord. For, the Lord’s instruction to those who have left their first love is to repent (Revelation 2:4-5). Knowing that, let’s seek out those who have fallen away, and let’s encourage them to repent and to return back to the Lord. Likewise, let’s pray for all of those we know who are unfaithful that they will return to faithful service (James 5:16), and always remember, “if anyone one among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20). So, “I have a dream” that all those who have fallen away would return back to faithful service to the Lord.

That All Christians Would Love The Brotherhood.

While writing to God’s people, Peter instructs them to “Love the brotherhood” (1 Peter 2:17). You see, “the brotherhood” here denotes “All Christians. All who are members of the body of Christ.” Therefore, brethren need to love one another because we all belong to the same family, namely God’s family (Ref. Galatians 3:26-28). Knowing that, as brothers and sisters in Christ, let’s all strive to sincerely, and fervently, express our love toward one another (1 Peter 1:22, 1 Peter 4:8), instead of being a people who bite and devour one another (Galatians 5:15), never forgetting, *“If someone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also”* (1 John 4:20-21). Remember that my beloved brethren, and seek to make the proper application of that Divine instruction! Once more, “I have a dream” that all Christians would sincerely love all Christians everywhere.

That Denominationalism Will Cease and Be No More.

“I have a dream” that denominationalism, and adherence to man-made religious doctrines will cease and be no more. You see, sadly, there are a lot of “religious denominations” that exist in the world today, and my friends, this should never be. For, Jesus desired for all believers to be one, not many, but one, as He and the Father are one (John 17:20-23). Also, the apostle Paul pleaded with believers in the first century for there to be no divisions among them, but rather for them to be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment (1 Corinthians 1:10). Once more, denominationalism should not be, and remember, whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God (2 John 9). So, “I have a dream” that denominationalism will cease and be no more.

That All of God’s Children Would Be Steadfast, Immovable, and Always Abound In The Work of The Lord.

In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul’s exhortation to the saints in Corinth was “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” So, “I have a dream” that all of God’s children would always remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Brethren, it is such a privilege to be called a child of God (1 John 3:1), and children of God need to be ever mindful of the fact that Jesus gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works (Titus 2:14). So, brethren, let us all be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. For, “I have a dream” that all of God’s children will be steadfast, immovable, and always abound in the work of the Lord.

Once again, “I have a dream,” and wouldn’t it be great if we all desired these same things?

✍ Brad Phillips

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. (Romans 10:9-10)

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 to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for 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

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| 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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