

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

January 28

2024

“I Marvel”

In Galatians 1:6-7, the inspired apostle Paul expressed to the churches of Galatia, “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.”

Here the apostle Paul simply informs that he was filled with wonder or with astonishment with the extreme behavior of these brethren in Galatia. You see, he couldn’t quite understand how these brethren who had come to Christ by faith, how they could so quickly turn away from the truth of the gospel. Therefore, Paul said, “I marvel.”

Sadly, there are times, when I too, “marvel” in regard to the behavior of some of my brethren. For instance...

I Marvel That There Are Some Brethren Today Who Are More Conformed To The Ways of The World, Than To God’s Ways.

I marvel to see that there are so many today who profess to be Christians who talk, dress, and act like the world. Sadly, it seems like to me that many brethren today have forgotten this instruction of the apostle Paul, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable

service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2). You see, a Christian is to be fully dedicated to doing the will of God. They must be truly committed to the Lord and His will, and they must not be conformed (i.e. be like) the world. Therefore, I marvel that there are some brethren who fail to prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God, and that there are some who seem to love this present world more than God and His ways.

I Marvel That There Are Some Brethren Who Constantly Battle Chronic Health Issues Who Attend Every Service, But Yet There Are Some Brethren Who Have No Health Issues Who Rarely Attend Every Service.

I have always been encouraged and impressed by those who attend every service. You see, there are some brethren who are fully dedicated to serving the Lord, and they truly put first things first (Matthew 6:33), even if they are dealing with a difficult circumstance such as a chronic health issue. You see, I can not count the times that I have visited with brethren in the past who were dealing with a chronic health issue who cried because they missed a service or two because of their battle with a physical health alignment. Such brethren are to be commended for their desire to worship God, and for their desire to assemble with the saints. But sadly, I marvel that there are some brethren today who have no serious health issues, or any other reasons to not be present at every service who choose not to be there. Simply put, I marvel that it is the manner of some, just like it was the manner of some in the first century who forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:25). How sad!

You see, all of God’s people should always seek to serve the Lord with gladness (Psalm 100:2), and should be glad for every opportunity afforded to them to go into the house of the Lord (Psalm 122:1), and when brethren neglect to do this, I marvel.

I Marvel That There Are Some Brethren Today Who Mismatch One Another.

I sometimes become overwhelmed with astonishment due to how I see some brethren treat one another. Shamefully, there are some brethren today who fail to fervently express their love for one another (1Peter 1:22, 4:8), and instead there are some brethren today who seem like they hate one another, some gossip about one another, some slander one another, and there are some who constantly bite and devour one another. However, I marvel that some seem to have forgotten that hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins (Proverbs 10:12). I marvel that some must not know that, where there is no talebearer (i.e. gossip), strife ceases (Proverbs 26:20). I marvel that some must not remember, whoever spreads slander is a fool (Proverbs 10:18), and if we bite and devour one another we will be consumed by one another (Galatians 5:15). Simply put, I marvel that some have lost sight of the fact that we are all brethren (Matthew 23:8) and they fail to act like it!

I Marvel That There Are Some Brethren Today Who Are Lukewarm In Their Service To The Lord.

I sometimes stand amazed to see that there are so many Christians today who are like the Laodiceans of old, in the fact that they are neither cold or hot (Revelation 3:14-16). Sadly, there are too many today who show up late to services, or hardly show up at all. There are too many today who just want to sit in a pew and do nothing. There are too many today who never invite anyone to come to services with them, and they themselves are always in a hurry to leave services. There are too many today who would just prefer for someone else to do everything that needs to be done, and they never volunteer to do anything.

Yes, I marvel that there seems to be so many Christians today who are lukewarm in their service to the Lord, and I marvel that those who are neither cold or hot in their service to the Lord fail to realize that such action makes the Lord sick (Revelation 3:16-19).

I Marvel That There Are Some Today Who Hear The Word of God Proclaimed, But Yet They Fail To Make Proper Application of God’s Word.

I’m always amazed to see some who frequently come to services and regularly hear the word of God proclaimed who do nothing in regard to properly applying God’s word into their life. You see, sadly, there are too many today who are just hearers of the word and not doers of it, and because of that they deceive themselves (James 1:22-25). You see, such are like that foolish man who built his house on the sand (Matthew 7:26-27), and because of this, I marvel. I truly marvel that there seems to be so many who fail to really understand that Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it” (Luke 11:28)!

Once again, there are times that I, like the apostle Paul, marvel, due to the behavior of some of my brethren.

✍ Brad Phillips

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| Belleville church of Christ | |
| <i>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258</i> | |
| 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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