

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

March 10

2024

## What One Does Not Know Can Hurt Them

We often hear the statement, “What people do not know will not hurt them.” However, when we seriously reflect upon this statement we can quickly conclude that this statement does not hold true concerning many things. For instance, if someone does not know that a bottle of water is contaminated with poison, and they drink that bottle of water, it will hurt them. So, you see, there are some things that can hurt people if they do not know them, and this is not only true concerning physical matters, but is also true concerning spiritual matters.

So, with the thought of “what one does not know can hurt them” pressed upon our minds let’s take a look at some much needed things that one needs to know concerning spiritual matters. Starting with, it is important that one knows God, for if one does not know God, it will hurt them. How do I know this? Well, the apostle Paul gave this warning in 2 Thessalonians 1:8, when he revealed that vengeance will be taken upon those who do not know God, and he then goes on to inform in 2 Thessalonians 1:9 that those who do not know God will be punished with everlasting destruction.

Now, one must not only know God, the creator of all things (Acts 17:24), but they must likewise know His will. In Ephesians 5:17, Paul wrote, “*do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is.*” You see, it is vital for one to know God’s will, for if one does not know God’s will it will hurt them. So, do not be unwise like

God’s people of old who were destroyed due to a lack of knowledge concerning God’s will (Hosea 4:6), but rather be one who knows God’s will.

Likewise, one must know about Jesus Christ. One must know and believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God, lest they die in their sins (John 8:24). One must know that Jesus Christ is the Savior (1 John 4:14) and that He came to this world to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). One must know that Christ died for sinners (Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:15). One must know that Christ is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2). One must know that reconciliation to God is only through Christ (Romans 5:9-11). One must know that Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5), and one must know that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one will come to the Father in heaven except through Him (John 14:6). Friend, failure to know Christ, and to be in Christ, will hurt you (Ephesians 2:1).

Also, one is in need of knowing about sin. One must know that sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4). One must know that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). One must know that sin separates them from God (Isaiah 59:2). One must know that they must repent of their sins (Luke 13:1-5; Acts 17:30), and one must know the need to be baptized for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38). For, if one does not know about sin, and what to do about it, sin will hurt them (Romans 6:23).

My friend, failure to know about the things mentioned above will hurt you. Therefore, seek the Lord while He can be found (Isaiah 55:6), hear the word of God and keep it (Luke 11:28), believe and confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37; 1 John 4:15), repent of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30), and be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27). For, failure to know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), and failure to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will hurt you (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

✍️ Brad Phillips

## “Even If These Three Men...”

What thoughts come to your mind when you hear the names Noah, Daniel, and Job? All three were righteous men who walked with God. All faced various trials and adversities, but continued to faithfully follow after God. All three men are heroes of faith to us, and rightly so.

God, through the prophet Ezekiel, refers to these three men in connection with the impending judgment of Judah. The nation of Judah persisted in their rebellion of God’s law. They were faithful in worshiping and serving their false gods, but quite unfaithful in serving the one, true and living God.

Devastation and destruction was coming from God in the form of the Babylonian army. It was a powerful and terrible army that would destroy their beloved Jerusalem and temple, slaughter countless Jews, and carry off many into captivity.

So what did Noah, Daniel, and Job have to do with all of this? Well God declared twice to His rebellious people, “Even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver only themselves by their righteousness,” says the Lord GOD (Ezekiel 14:14, 20).

Just think of the impact of such a statement. God took three of the most righteous and respected men of the Bible, and said that even if they dwelt in Judah, the rest of you would still be doomed. And the only reason Noah, Daniel, and Job would be spared would be because of their own righteousness.

What are the lessons for you and me? We too will face God’s judgment one day (2 Cor. 5:10). Each of us will give an account for what we have done in the body whether good or bad. A church full of strong and faithful Christians will only deliver themselves, and not us from God’s wrath if we are wicked. Our parents, grandparents, siblings, spouse, and children may all be righteous, but will not be able to deliver us from eternal torment if we are unfaithful. So let us heed Paul’s admonition to “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12)!

*✍ Jesse Flowers*

## Self-Control

The Bible clearly teaches that Christians are to exercise temperance or self-control (2 Peter 1:6) if we are to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10).

There are those who profess to being Christians that do not exercise self-control and as a result they lose their temper; they use speech not fitting for a Christian to use or engage in actions unbecoming to one wearing the name of Christ.

How can we develop self-control? Paul gives us the answer in 2 Corinthians 10:5; “...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” When our every thought is controlled by the desire to be obedient to Christ in all things we will be able to exercise the self-control expected of followers of Christ.

*✍ James Hahn*

### 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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