

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

April 28

2024

## A Backward Looking Plowman

Jesus said, *“No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God”* (Luke 9:62).

Now, in the context of this passage, Jesus is speaking concerning the cost of discipleship, and He made this statement to emphasize the importance of being a dedicated and faithful follower of Him. So, with that thought in mind, let’s notice some things that describe the character of one who looks back, and why that should be avoided.

### **A Backward Looking Plowman Denotes One Who Has A Lack of Trust.**

When one is unsure of someone or something they typically tend to look backward, which usually leads them to draw back and away from someone or something. However, a servant of the Lord must always put their trust in the Lord, they must never doubt Him, and they must never look back and turn away from Him. Therefore, one who desires to follow the Lord needs to remember, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths”* (Proverbs 3:5-6). Brethren, hold on to those words of wisdom, and be one who forever trusts in the Lord (Isaiah 26:4), and never look back.

### **A Backward Looking Plowman Denotes One Who Is Unstable.**

If a plowman is to do his work well, he must firmly look ahead at the line of the furrow which he is making. For instance, if he looks back, the plow will likely give way and impair the quality of his work. Again, a servant of the Lord must not look back, but rather must always be firmly

fixed on doing the Lord’s work. So, be one who stands fast in the Lord (Philippians 4:1) and take heed to this exhortation of Paul, *“...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

### **A Backward Looking Plowman Denotes One Who Is Slothful.**

Did you know, a plowman who looks back while engaged in labor is one who is only half at work, and the result of such will be evident? You see, a servant of the Lord must not be lagging in diligence, but rather must be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (Romans 12:11). So, to be simply put, one who is slothful (i.e. lazy) is not fit for the kingdom of God. Therefore, be one who is busy and be actively engaged in the Lord’s work, and do not become sluggish, but rather imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises (Hebrews 6:12).

### **A Backward Looking Plowman Denotes One Who Lacks Objective.**

The main objective of all plowmen is to make a straight furrow, and a forward cast eye is required in order to accomplish this objective. Therefore, a good plowman will be one who is focused on what is ahead of him, rather than what is behind him. You see, the same holds true for a servant of the Lord, for they too must be focused on what is ahead of them, rather than what is behind them (Philippians 3:13-14). So, be one who diligently keeps your eye on the prize, and hold on to these words of Jesus, *“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able”* (Luke 13:24).

### **A Backward Looking Plowman Will Have Regret.**

Last, but certainly not least, if a plowman is to accomplish his work he must look onward, he must be intent on his work, and he must never look back with regret. Sadly, there are many who become engaged in the Lord’s work who work hard for awhile, but then they grow weary and begin to have regrets. However, there is no place for regrets in the kingdom of God, and a servant of the Lord must never grow weary and lose heart (Galatians 6:9), but rather they must be one who eagerly fights the good fight, keeps the faith, and finishes the race (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Keep these things in mind, my beloved brethren, and be one who faithfully follows Jesus, so that you may someday hear Him say, *“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matthew 25:34-35).

✍ Brad Phillips

## What If Everyone Was Like Me?

Once there was a congregation in which every member was just like you. Each one cooperated and supported the church just the way you have been doing.

Everyone worked as hard and attended the same services and Gospel Meetings just as you do. The elders, deacons, and preacher were all interested in the church to the same degree that you are. They put the same emphasis on their recreation, business, and other material affairs that you do. Each member contributed financially to the church as you do.

If everyone were like you, how many would there be at Bible Study this Sunday morning? Would there be a Sunday evening or Wednesday evening service? Would the contribution go up or down?

Remember, each member of the body of Christ has work to do, a place to fill, and a responsibility to God. (Hebrews 10:24-25) “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching.”

*✍ Steve Hardin*

## 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](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