

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 15

2024

## HELP ME GO TO HEAVEN

In John 14:1-3 Jesus said, “Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”

Do you want to go to heaven? Do you really want to go to heaven? I want to go to heaven. If I miss heaven, I’ll miss the very purpose for which I was created. If I miss heaven, I’ll miss the place the Lord prepared for me. If I miss heaven, I’ll miss eternity with my Savior. I don’t want to miss heaven and I need your help to go there.

You can help me by giving me the truth. I need the truth like the Macedonians: “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us’” (Acts 16:9). I need to hear the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. Ephesians 4:15 says, “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head even Christ.”

If you are my friend, if you are concerned about my soul,

give me the truth. Don’t flatter me. Don’t praise my virtues while remaining silent about my vices. Don’t fear that the truth will offend me. Don’t treasure our friendship, our friendly relations, above my salvation. Don’t think that by ignoring my sins you can help. Don’t think that being blind to my sins will prove yourself charitable. However I may react, whatever may be my attitude toward you after you have done it, give me the truth! For the truth, and only the truth, can make men free from the shackles of sin, strengthen me in the pathway of righteousness, and lead me to the joys of heaven. If I’m wavering, weak, lukewarm, indifferent, neglectful; if I’ve been overtaken in a trespass, if I’ve been drawn into the pleasures of the world; if I’ve left my first love; if I’ve been led astray by error; or if I’ve done none of these, but need to grow in knowledge and be edified, give me the truth!

You can help me go to heaven by giving me your love. People need people. I can’t go to heaven alone. I need you and you need me. “Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up. Furthermore, if two lie down together they keep warm, but how can one be warm alone? And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart” (Ecclesiastes 4:9:12). “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Galatians 5:13-14).

God gave us to one another to help us get to heaven. Let’s not only use the great resource God has given us, but be the resource God intended for us to be.

*✍️ Greg King*

## Finish The Race

A group of men were once running together in a mini marathon when one of them had a sobering thought. “What would you do”, he asked, “if you were suddenly made known that today was going to be your last day on earth?” Now, there were several different answers to that question. One man said, “I would immediately rush home to spend the remainder of my time with my closest loved ones.” Another man said, “I would rush to those that I have wronged and make my wrongs right.” However, one of the men said, “I would just finish the race.”

Now, you see, the attitude of the last man depicted in the story above should be the attitude of every one who is a Christian. For, the Bible compares living the life of a Christian to that of running a foot race (1 Corinthians 9:24-25; Hebrews 12:1), and all Christians need to run the race set before them each and every day by being readily prepared to finish the race.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, may we all live each and every day as if it was our last day here on this earth. For the fact of the matter is, tomorrow is not guaranteed for any of us (James 4:13-14), and we all need to always be ever mindful of the fact that Jesus is coming, He is going to appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation (Hebrews 9:28). When? Well, we do not know when He will come (Matthew 25:13), but we do know that “the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and

the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). Simply put, we need to always be prepared for our appointment with physical death (Hebrews 9:27), and we need to always be prepared for the return of our Lord and Savior, lest we are found unprepared when He does return (Matthew 25:1-13).

So, knowing that, be one who makes the one thing that you do, that of pressing toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14). Always run the race in such a way that you may obtain the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24), run the race that is set before you with endurance (Hebrews 10:36, 12:1), always looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2-3), and be one who finishes the race (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

*✍ Brad Phillips*

### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

**Website: [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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