

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

September 29

2024

Beware of “Preacheritis”

“Preacheritis” is a word often used to describe “the showing of favoritism, loyalty, or partiality to a preacher.” Simply put, “preacheritis” is “the excessive exaltation of a preacher.” Sadly, there are some brethren today who suffer severely from “preacheritis.” So much so, some people’s faith is preacher-centered, instead of being Christ-centered, and because of that, their faith and devotion is at the center of some preacher instead of Christ. The truth is, some do pledge more loyalty to their “favorite preacher,” than to Christ, and this condition is dangerous in that some feel no obligation to attend services unless their “favorite preacher” is preaching, and it is likewise dangerous in the fact that it can cause contentions, division, and strife among brethren.

In 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, the apostle Paul addressed the contentions, division, and strife that were occurring in the church at Corinth over “preacheritis.” Again, there are some today, who are like some of those who were in Corinth that are plagued by “preacheritis.” However, we all need to be ever mindful of the fact that the inspired apostle Paul rebukes those who suffer from “preacheritis,” and he simply commands them to knock it off (Ref. 1 Corinthians 1:10-17).

You see, “preacheritis” often sets in when people take their eyes off Christ, and set them on men. However, we must never allow any preacher, no matter how eloquent, friendly, or knowledgeable he is, to turn our attention from Christ to him. Remember that, my beloved brethren, and never forget that boasting in men is carnal, and a spiritually mature Christian will not participate in doing such (Ref. 1 Corinthians 3:1-4).

Likewise, we all must understand that preachers are simply servants, and all glory belongs only to God (Ref. 1 Corinthians 3:5-7). Therefore, beware of exalting your “favorite preacher”, never forgetting that he is just a man, and that he is no more important than any other member of the church, but rather equally important (Ref. 1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

Also, preachers need to beware of promoting “preacheritis,” and they need to be ever mindful of the fact that they are not to seek to draw away disciples after themselves (Ref. Acts 20:30), they are not to seek to please men (Ref. Galatians 1:10), but rather they are to be used in God’s service seeking only to please God (Ref. 1 Thessalonians 2:4), never forgetting that it will be the Lord who will ultimately judge them, and not men (Ref. 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, may all preachers today, like Paul, strongly insist, and demand, that faith should not be in men, but in God (Ref. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5), and may they never desire, nor accept, the devotion and the praise of men (Ref. Acts 14:15).

Now, I understand that we all need encouragement, and as a gospel preacher myself, I do appreciate kind, sincere, words and expressions of encouragement. Now, although we all ought to seek to edify one another, and to stir up one another for love and good works (Ref. Romans 14:19; Hebrews 3:13, 10:24), and such is often accomplished by offering kind and uplifting words of encouragement (Ref. Ephesians 5:29), we need to beware when we are complimenting or talking about a preacher to not put more emphasis upon the preacher himself (i.e. his eloquent speech or knowledge) than upon the gospel message, never forgetting, the power is in the gospel, and not in any man (Ref. Romans 1:16).

Brethren, we ought to appreciate, respect, and be thankful for every gospel preacher who declares the whole counsel of God (Ref. Acts 20:27), who speaks as the oracles of God (Ref. 1 Peter 4:11). Knowing that, refrain from boasting and showing partiality to any single preacher of the gospel, and beware of “preacheritis,” keeping in mind that every one of us are to only follow Christ and His word, and not some preacher, never forgetting that our allegiance is to only belong to Christ, and to no man. Therefore, “let no man glory in men” (1 Corinthians 3:21).

✍ Brad Phillips

Masquerading As An Angel of Light

Paul warns in 2 Cor. 11:14 that Satan goes around pretending to be an “**angel of light.**” Light is spoken of in the gospel as from, and encompassing all that is of God. How can this evil, condemned, father of all lies depict himself as something so righteous and pure?

Man, being physical, is tempted in one or more of three aspects. In 1 Jn. 2:15-16, John warns of these three avenues of destruction. (1) The lust of the eyes, (2) The lust of the flesh, and (3) The vain glory of life.

Jesus, our Savior, was tempted in this way. Matt. 4:1-10 recounts these events in the life of Jesus. Verse 1 points to the one responsible for these temptations as being the devil. How is this warning applicable to us in 2024? Satan promises many things to us today in exchange for giving in to his temptations. He promises popularity if we will only give in to the temptation of smoking, drinking, or fornication. Go to some family or to the hospital and visit those who are suffering from lung disease or liver disease or some form of venereal disease, or even worse - AIDS. These people have taken the bait and now must pay the consequences of their choices. Many do not get a second opportunity to make the right choice.

Talk to the family where dad was promised money and power if he would spend most of his time, if not all, at the office. These families don't last too long as we see mothers who become lonely and begin looking elsewhere for the companionship that should have been found at home. Children suffer because dad is not there for advice and encouragement.

In an old *Andy Griffith* series, Andy once told a hobo wanderer, “if you hold something shiny in front of a six-year-old boy, he will take the shiny and fun way every time.” Let us not be children tossed to and fro (Eph. 4:14).

May we all seriously look at our choices and see the empty promises of Satan for what they really are. We have the promises of God that if we will resist the devil he will flee from us (James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:8-9). We also have the example of Jesus in Matt. 4:11. When Scripture is adhered to, the devil cannot overtake us. Peter promises in 2 Pet. 1:10-11 if we are busy serving God and doing His will that we will never fall. To use a military slogan, let us be all we can be for the Lord. The devil will receive his reward (Matt. 25:41).

✍️ Mike Turner

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

Website: 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