

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

December 29, 2024

## **The End Is Better Than The Beginning**

The end of a matter is better than its beginning; patience of spirit is better than haughtiness of spirit.” (Eccl.7:8) As we end this year, will you do anything differently this coming year? Same routines? Same schedules? Same habits? Same financial picture? Same spiritual picture? Same type of books read? Same friends to hang out with? Or, will you put a stake in the ground and determine that this coming year will be different? More spirituality? More involvement with my church family? More reaching out? More faith? More time for family? Better saving financially? Better spiritual habits? Better care of your body? A better year? We often call such things, “resolutions” meaning we have “resolved” to do things. But often, our first of the year resolutions last about a month and they are gone. Back to the old ways, old habits and old thoughts. Eventually these add up to a lifetime and that defines our life. I have found

that the best diet in the world is the mirror. When a person is tired of the way they look, they will do something. The best financial plans is your bank statement. When you are tired of living paycheck to paycheck, you will do something. The best spiritual plan is Sunday - when you are tired of giving lip service to the God that loves you so much, you’ll start making changes. The motivation is I want to do better. I want to be better. The end is better than the beginning...Let’s make it so, by living for Jesus every day. By: Roger Shouse

## **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)*

## What Can I Do In The Coming Year?

What Can I Do In The Coming Year? Many times, Christians feel as though there is nothing they can do to positively assist in the work of the church. This, of course, is a huge mistake. There is something for everyone to do. Let us suggest these things that EVERY member of the local congregation can do that will help our collective service for the Lord:

1. You can read your Bible every day. There are few things that can compare to regular Bible reading when it comes to strengthening the soul and maintaining focus on spiritual priorities. What are you waiting for? Make the commitment right NOW to read your Bible this year. 2. You can attend the services faithfully. We all push ourselves to do certain things. We'll go to real extremes to attend family gatherings, keep a doctor's appointment, go to a ballgame, have a regular time at the beauty shop, etc. Unfortunately, some are not nearly so determined to attend worship services and Bible studies. If you can get out for other things, why can't you get out for services? Think! You can really help by simply being present. 3. You can pray fervently. Do you consistently spend time in prayer every day? Pray for the church, for the elders, for those who are

weak, for our work in reaching the lost, etc. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). 4. You can invite a neighbor, co-neighbor, co-worker, or family member to attend the services with you. You might be surprised how many would be willing to come with you if you simply invited them. 5. You can set a good example. Don't forget that others are watching everything you do, everything you say, everywhere you go. If you let down, even once, they will notice it, and your influence will be damaged. Be conscious of your impact by way of your example. 6. You can be positive and enthusiastic. Too many are "doom and gloom" Christians, always looking for negative things to complain about. Look up! Be thankful for what you have and excited about what you can do for God's glory.

By: Greg Gwin

### **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**

Steve Harden