

---

Pleasant View church of Christ  
2500 Highway 49 East  
P.O. Box 189  
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30  
A.M. Worship: 10:30  
P.M. Worship: 6:00  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm  
Phone: 924-9714

Hebrews 13:15-16  
“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

*“I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.”*

*Bill Cosby*

*“Jealousy is, I think, the worst of all faults because it makes a victim of both parties.”*

*Gene Tierney*

---

## Liberalism Or Legalism?

Churches of Christ are often fearful of liberalism. While it is impossible to narrowly define liberalism, we can observe its basic characteristics. First, the ends justify the means; liberals believe a church should do whatever it takes to bring someone into the church building. Secondly, emotions can define faithfulness; emotionally charged worship services are the goal of liberals. Third, the social gospel is taught more than the gospel of Christ; being an example of Christ trumps teaching the doctrines of Christ. These characteristics present themselves in many different ways, from bands in worship to women preachers to adopting nearly all denominational practices.

Legalism is on the opposite end of the religious spectrum from liberalism. Legalism creates extra-biblical rules for faith. Legalists spiritual ancestors are the Jewish Pharisees. The Pharisees took the law, added their own rules, and then applied those rules to all Jews. Modern legalists operate the same way. Matters of judgment become matters of faith. Legalists pride themselves on being the sheriffs of the church, rooting out perceived liberal ideas throughout a congregation. Legalists think length of services, Bible translations, order of services, and church building architecture are all matters of fellowship. They believe that saying “no” to every non-traditional prac-

tice is a sign of faithfulness.

A church of Christ does not need to be liberal or legalistic—it needs to be biblical. Both liberals and legalists believe they are practicing biblical doctrine, but Jesus said that we should judge one another by the fruit we produce. In nearly every congregation where legalism or liberalism exists, there is a history of division, heartache, and decline. The churches that avoid the extremes are those that can proudly say without reservation that they are a church of Christ.

James Hayes

---

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Toothless Rats

**August 26, 2012**

**Issue 75**

In this week's online version of the British Journal *Biology Letters*, researchers described the *Paucidentomys vermidax*, a near-toothless rat that was discovered in Indonesia. It is the only rodent out of 2,200 known species that does not have molars and instead has bicuspid upper incisors. These rats cannot gnaw on their prey; therefore, they suck in earthworms, slice them into smaller pieces with their incisors, spit the pieces onto the ground, and finally eat them. They are just as ugly as any other rat, but they have no interest in your garbage or finding a way into your house.

Have you ever met a tooth-

less rat? Do you know anyone who looks very menacing on the outside but on the inside they are actually quite weak? If you haven't, you will one day. The world is full of people who act tough, say shocking things, and do all they can to intimidate the people around them. But when these toothless rats are challenged, or when someone pulls back the curtain on their lives, they crumble like a house of cards.

Unfortunately, toothless rats are often accommodated rather than denounced. In order to avoid any conflict, the innocent parties will dance around the toothless rats, hoping that the rats will eventually

go away. But they won't go away. They will stay as long as they are accepted. They will live in your house, your church, your school, and your workplace until others show them the door.

We are not commanded to be appeasers. We are commanded to be peacemakers. So make peace even when it is uncomfortable.

"If possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Rom. 12:18).

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9).

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- We will continue "The Other Half" series today by looking at the other half of Hebrews 10:25.
- Clady Hollis, sister of Maime Hamilton, had surgery for cancer Tuesday. She is recovering at her home in Paducah, KY.
- Continue to remember the Brewer family, Carson Thornton, Faye Waller, and our young people as they face many challenges each day at school.

---

## Let's Strive To Have 100 People At Each Sunday Worship Service Tonight's Sermon: "Jealousy"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Garrett

Pray: J.L. Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: M. Newell

Serve: Demonbreum, Rose, L. Newell

Pray: J. Newell