
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

Proverbs 17:14
“The beginning of strife is
like letting out water, so
abandon the quarrel before
it breaks out.”

“A good conscience is a continual Christmas.”

Ben Franklin

*“Unless we make Christmas an occasion to
share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won’t
make it white.”*

Bing Crosby

Repentance Or Penance?

The Bible teaches that there are three categories of people who deserve punishment: (1) those who are lost in sin (Rom. 6:23); (2) disobedient children (Prov. 13:24; Eph. 6:4); and evildoers (Rom. 13:4). Those who accept the free gift of God of eternal life by obeying the gospel will avoid God’s wrath. Parents are responsible for disciplining disobedient children. And the government is a minister of God tasked with punishing those who do evil in society. There is a category of people who do not deserve punishment but often receive it—those who repent.

The word “repent” means “to change one’s mind.” If someone changes his mind, his actions will

change as well. In his speech to King Agrippa, Paul said that he preached “that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance” (Acts 26:20). Notice that Paul did not say that he preached so that those who repented would be punished for their former ungodly deeds. Repentance is about making changes for the future. It’s about avoiding sin and pursuing righteousness. Repentance is required for salvation (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38).

Some, unfortunately, believe in penance. It comes from the Latin word *poena*, which means “penalty.” Some may have never heard the word “penance,” but they practice it.

Johnny offends Paul, then apologizes with sincerity, but Paul says, “Ok. But you owe me.” Johnny then spends weeks trying to pay Johnny back for the wrongs he committed. True repentance only requires Johnny to cease offending Paul. Paul should not require Johnny to perform certain tasks in order to “make things right.” Zaccheus volunteered to pay back those he defrauded, and Paul was willing to pay back Philemon for Onesimus’ offenses. But those were personal decisions. It is humanly impossible for every person to correct all wrongs. The Bible does not teach penance as a requirement for salvation.

James Hayes

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Symptom Or The Disease?

December 9, 2012

Issue 89

On the morning of December 1, Jovan Belcher, a linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs, arrived home at 7:50 a.m. after a night of drinking and quickly became engaged in an argument with his girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins. In the presence of Belcher's mother, Belcher shot Perkins in the head, neck, and abdomen. Perkins died shortly thereafter. Belcher then drove to the Chief's training facility. When got out of his car, he was holding a gun to his head. He encountered the Chief's general manager, Scot Pioli, and the Chief's head coach, Romeo Crennel. Both tried to persuade Belcher to put his gun down. Belcher

heard the sirens of emergency vehicles and slumped down by his car. He said, "I can't be here," then he shot himself in the head.

As soon as the news of this tragedy spread across the country, media outlets and concerned citizens began asking, "Why?" Why would someone do such a thing? Some blamed the availability of handguns. Others blamed the alcohol. So far, most people seem to be trying to excuse Belcher, choosing to treat the symptoms instead of the disease.

The disease here is Belcher's basic view of women, alcohol, and violence. If Jovan Belcher valued women, avoided alco-

hol, and didn't see violence as an answer to a problem, the murder/suicide would have never happened.

Jovan Belcher was responsible for every action he took that morning, and he must deal with the consequences.

Too often we treat the symptoms instead of the disease. If we argue, we just want to stop the argument instead of finding out what caused the argument. If a teenager begins an immoral lifestyle, we often try to punish the activity instead of finding out why those activities started. If we focus on the disease, there won't be symptoms to treat.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Special "thank you" to Freddie Brown, David Billingsley, Jeff Baker, and Justin Newell for teaching in James' absence last week. It's good that we have so many capable teachers at PV.
- Even though finances are stretched this time of year, please remember our building fund contribution on the last Sunday of this month. Your generosity has been evident in this process.

Christmas Lunch After Worship Today At Elementary School Mens' Meeting at 5:00; Singing at 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Howe

Pray: J. Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: L. Crabtree

Serve: T. Walker, D. Stuard, F. Brown

Pray: J.W. Head