

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Darkness

The darkest place on earth is North Korea. It is led by 28-year-old dictator Kim Jung-un, who took control of the country after the recent passing of his father, Kim Jong-il. North Korea is so isolated and backward that any description of it sounds mythical. Adam Johnson, a Pulitzer Prize-winner author, explained the country this way in *Gentleman's Quarterly* magazine: "We don't know how many people live there. It's uncertain how many people starved to death during the famine in the late '90s. Also mysterious is the number of citizens currently toiling their way toward death in labor camps, places people are sent with-

out trial or sentence or appeal. What we know of North Korea comes from satellite photos and the stories of defector. Though North Korea is a nuclear power, it has yet to build its first stoplight. The phone book hasn't been invented. It is a nation where old Soviet factories limp along to produce brand-new refrigerators from 1963." There were reports in the late '90s that citizens who lived in the countryside were so desperate for food during the famine that they resorted to eating grass. How hopeless it must feel to live in such a wretched place. But one thing is sure: as miserable as North Korea is, it pales in compari-

son to the torment of hell. The Valley of the Son of Hinnom, where we get the word "Gehenna"—which is translated "hell"—was a place outside of Jerusalem that was more or less a trash dump during the days of Jesus. The disciples pictured that smoldering, dirty, disgusting place when Jesus spoke of the eternal state of the condemned. I wouldn't want to live in North Korea for five minutes. I cannot fathom living in the darkness of hell for eternity. It is important for the world to know the reality of hell. And it is important for them to know the One who can save them.

James Hayes

May 19, 2013

Issue 112

Items of Note:

- Jessica Humston is now at home recovering from aggressive chemotherapy. She will receive another treatment in about two weeks.
- Landon Donkin is graduating from Springfield High School Thursday night at 6:00 at The Center.
- Donna Young is at her daughter's house recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- Brad Rose is still receiving hospice care.

Church Cookout, Saturday June 8, 3:00. Food at 5:00.

Send News To Janet Tabor at taborj@realtracs.com

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: J. Newell

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: Donkin, Trent, Shelton

Pray: Crabtree

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

Matthew 5:30

“If your hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.”

“Happiness doesn’t depend on any external conditions, it is governed by our mental attitude.”

Dale Carnegie

“Achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness, not pain or mindless self-indulgence, is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and the result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values.”

Ayn Rand

Why Do They Wait?

Why do some people refuse to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why do people reject the free gift of eternal life that is found in Him? There is no single answer that fits everyone who rejects Christ. But there are likely three main reasons why the lost are reluctant to follow Jesus.

First, *some feel unworthy of salvation*. People who have never attended a Sunday School class or Gospel Meeting or Christian worship service sometimes feel like church stuff is for church people. Repentance and baptism is just for those who grew up in that belief system. They feel like outsiders. They think their sins are too great. They think that they need to live as close to perfection as

possible before submitting to baptism.

Second, *some prefer the worldly life*. They know that coming to Christ means a rejection of their former life in the world, and they simply do not want to leave that old life. It’s too fun. It’s too easy. It’s too comfortable. They like their worldly friends and their worldly passions. Being a Christian seems boring.

Third, *some do not feel that they need to obey the gospel*. They think that if they lead a life that is just a little more moral than their neighbors then God will save them. Many Christian groups teach a form of universalism. It is easy to accept a

doctrine that does not require repentance. It eases the conscience of the sinner. Many in this category speak often of God’s grace in order to validate their sinful lifestyle.

All three groups are wrong. The first group needs to understand that there is enough grace to cover ALL the sins of ANY person. The second group needs to understand that this world is temporary, and that Jesus is offering an eternal happiness. The third group needs to understand that their good deeds will not save them, because their sinful acts will condemn them.

James Hayes
