

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

After *This* Comes Judgment

June 23, 2013

Issue 117

Hebrews 9:27 is familiar to many Christians: "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment..." This verse confirms that death is an appointment we all must keep. It also confirms the reality of the day of judgment (Acts 17:31). But there is one more aspect of this verse that is sometimes overlooked. Notice the order of events. Death happens, then judgment comes. You think, "Yeah, James. That's obvious." Well, if it is so obvious, then why do we often put the judgment before the death? Why do we condemn people before Jesus does? Here are a few possi-

ble reasons why we are quick to judge and slow to forgive:

(1.) *The faults of some make others feel righteous.* Instead of conforming to the likeness of Christ, some people prefer to compare their righteousness to those around them. They share the perspective of the Pharisee in Jesus' parable, who said, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people..." (Luke 18:11). But we will not be judged on a curve. We will stand before Christ responsible for our own deeds. We will not judge others or ourselves. "There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, yet is not washed from his filthiness" (Prov. 30:12).

(2.) *Sometimes it's easier to end a relationship than mend it.* If someone sins against us, it's easier to label that person as a bad person and end all connection with him/her than take the necessary steps to heal the relationship. We declare ourselves the guiltless winner/victim, and the other person is the villain.

(3.) *We think we know the whole story.* We pronounce judgment on others because we feel that all the facts are in and we are in a good position to prosecute the offender. But that is rarely true. Only God has complete knowledge of every person.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Jessica Humston will not have to receive any more in-hospital chemotherapy. She will only have to take a chemo pill.
- J.W. Head is now home.
- Tanya Moore, Becky Rose's sister, severely broke her leg in a skiing accident.
- Carolyn Newell had a stint installed in an artery that was 99% blocked. She is recovering well.
- Glad our campers are back!

Building Fund Contribution Next Sunday Gospel Meeting With Joey Spann Begins July 28

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School
Read: J.L. Shelton
Pray: Baker

Morning Worship
Wait on the Table: Rose
Serve: J. Walker, Stuard, E. Walker
Pray: Garrett

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 15:3
“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.”

“Discipline yourself, and others won’t need to.”

John Wooden

“Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers. It may not be difficult to store up in the mind a vast quantity of facts within a comparatively short time, but the ability to form judgments requires the severe discipline of hard work and the tempering heat of experience and maturity.”

Calvin Coolidge

Where Do We Go From Here?

Louis Reard was running his mother’s shoe shop in Paris, France in 1946 when he and a fellow designer named Jacques Heim made a wager to see who could design the world’s smallest swimsuit. Reard won, designing a suit that covered only 30 square inches of skin. He figured that the public’s negative response to the bikini would be explosive, so he named his swimsuit the “bikini” after Bikini Atoll, where atomic bomb testing took place. Initially, he couldn’t even get a woman to model it, so he hired a stripper, Micheline Bernardini. The French public gradually accepted the bikini, and Reard received 50,000 fan letters, mostly from men. In

advertisements, Reard claimed that a bikini wasn’t a real bikini unless it could be pulled through a wedding ring.

This is just one example of how things can quickly go from rejected to openly accepted without much resistance. Once the acceptance is established, those who reject are labeled as “judgmental,” “old fashioned,” “people who are on the wrong side of history,” and so on.

When it comes to our place in culture, Christians should not be concerned with labels. We shouldn’t accept all things, nor should we reject all things. Always saying “yes” violates the Christian virtue of discernment. Always saying “no” cre-

ates a disconnect from neighbors and hurts our ability to build a bridge from our neighbors to Christ.

Scripture is our guide as we find our way through culture. Jesus never commanded us to be popular. He also never told us to avoid all interaction with the world around us. He told us to be salt and light. We should live in a way that draws the world closer to Christ. “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Rom. 12:2).

James Hayes
