

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Prosperity Gospel

July 7, 2013

Issue 119

In the 1980s, some of the most popular people in America were men on TV who cried, pleaded, and shouted—men who asked for money, got it, and created family-friendly amusement parks, gigantic auditoriums, and vast personal fortunes. They were collectively known as “televangelists.” These false teachers manipulated gullible viewers into thinking that just by touching the television screen or donating their savings to the ministry that Jesus would heal their various troubles. They were men like Jim Bakker, Jimmy Swaggert, Jerry Falwell, Ernest Angley. (All of these men are still involved in that type of work today.)

Jim Bakker’s career is arguably the most eventful of the bunch. His “Praise The Lord” (PTL) ministry, with its Heritage USA Theme Park and 12 million TV viewers per week, collected over \$1 million a week in donations alone. In 1989 Bakker was tried and convicted of 24 counts of wire fraud, mail fraud, and conspiracy and was sentenced to 45 years in federal prison, but he only served about five years before being released.

Looking back on his years of teaching that God would bless people financially if they just invested in his ministry, Bakker wrote: “The more I studied the Bible, however, I had to

admit that the prosperity message did not line up with the tenor of Scripture. My heart was crushed to think that I led so many people astray.”

Even preachers who are not solely trying to extort their followers can lead people astray with the prosperity gospel. The apostle Peter wrote that we should follow in the steps of Christ (I Peter 2:21). Our objective as Christians is to model Jesus. In doing so, some might become rich; some might live in poverty; but either way, material wealth will not be an indicator of faithfulness.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Here’s the address for Tanya Moore, Becky Rose’s sister who broke her leg: 620 Oak Plains Rd., Clarksville, TN 37043
- Please pray for Allie Young, a young girl who had cardiac arrest at a ball game.
- Also pray for the families of Tim LeClaire and Joyce Callis, both of whom lost their lives last week.
- Pray for those who are traveling this summer!

Everyone Gave Generously Last Week For The Building Fund! Gospel Meeting With Joey Spann Begins July 28

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: E. Walker

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: Stuart, Crabtree, Brown

Pray: M. Newell

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

Psalm 67:1-2
“God be gracious to us and
bless us, and cause His face
to shine upon us—That your
way may be known on the
earth, Your salvation among
all nations.”

*“The sign of an intelligent people is their ability
to control their emotions by the application of
reason.”*

Marya Mannes

*“What we do upon some great occasion will
probably depend on what we already are; and
what we are will be the result of previous years
of self-discipline.”*

H.P. Liddon

Open-Mindedness Vs. Closed-Mindedness

Are you closed-minded or open-minded? That's a hard question to answer, isn't it? It depends on the issue. I suppose that most people are closed-minded—they like what they like, and they dislike what they dislike.

Over the last 20 years, however, influential people in popular culture have made open-mindedness a virtue and closed-mindedness a sin. We are told on a daily basis that holding firm to a particular conviction is wrong, that we should be open to any and all social behaviors and political ideologies. But the Bible says otherwise.

When the apostle Paul entered Athens on his second missionary jour-

ney, he found a city that was very open-minded. Scripture states that “...all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new” (Acts 17:21). Paul noticed their free-thinking, and he preached to them about the God that they did not know—the “unknown God.” Paul explained that his God doesn't need alters or to be served with human hands. His God was greater than their false gods. His God has fixed a day in which He will judge the world through Jesus, His only begotten Son. Therefore, the Athenians—and all people—needed to repent.

Paul was closed-minded when it

came to serving the Lord. He wasn't interested in learning about the Athenians' philosophy. He didn't need to be educated in the ways of false religion.

When it comes to Christ, we should always be closed-minded.

“You shall fear only the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name. You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God.” (Duet. 6:13-15).

James Hayes
