

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Should I Only Read The Red Letters?

July 14, 2013

Issue 120

If you frequent social media websites like Twitter or Facebook, you will find an array of what I call “Bumper Sticker Theology”—short phrases that supposedly summarize all one needs to know about a particular biblical doctrine. Even those who know very little about Scripture get involved in Bumper Sticker Theology. At a recent political rally supporting same-sex marriage, one demonstrator held a sign that read, “ALL THAT JESUS SAID ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY:

\_\_\_\_\_” That sign, however, is extremely disingenuous, and it is just one example of how the unlearned misuse Scripture

to advance their own desires and alleviate their consciences.

That demonstrator fails to understand a fundamental principle of sound Bible study: If someone rejects the writings of the apostles, he or she rejects Jesus. In John 16:13, Jesus, while addressing the apostles, said, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth...” At the end of the Great Commission, Jesus said that the apostles should teach the world all that He commanded them. The apostle Paul stated that he spoke “not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual

thoughts with spiritual words” (I Cor. 2:13). Also in First Corinthians—a book that highlights many sins, including homosexuality—Paul declared, “If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord’s commandment” (I Cor. 14:37) .

Jesus’ purpose was not to live on this earth forever; therefore, He endowed His authorized ambassadors—the apostles—to continue His teachings after He ascended. Ignoring the apostles’ teachings is both dangerous and blasphemous.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- John Hayes had a very good blood report Wednesday. He has one more chemotherapy treatment to do on July 31. He is feeling well, and he appreciates your cards. Address: 1512 Hunters Ln. Nashville, TN 37207.
- Jessica Humston is back home. She will have another scan in the near future to see how well her new chemotherapy pills are working.
- Happy Have contribution next week.

**Mens’ Meeting Tonight at 5:00; Singing Tonight At 6:00  
Gospel Meeting With Joey Spann Begins July 28**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: J. Newell

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, Gupton

Pray: Rose

---

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

Lamentations 3:22-23  
“The Lord’s lovingkindnesses  
indeed never cease, for His  
compassions never fail. They  
are new every morning;  
great is Your faithfulness.”

*“A joke is a very serious thing.”*

*Winston Churchill*

*“Holding on to anger, resentment, and hurt  
only gives you tense muscles, a headache and a  
sore jaw from clenching your teeth. Forgiveness  
gives you back the laughter and the lightness in  
your life.”*

*Joan Lunden*

---

## Your Thorn In The Flesh

Shaquille O’Neill retired from the National Basketball Association (NBA) two years ago as one of the best centers in NBA history. Among his many accolades are the MVP and Rookie of the Year awards. But O’Neill had one distinctive flaw in his game: He was a horrible free throw shooter. He only made about half of the free throws he attempted in his career. When asked about this problem, O’Neill responded, “If I could shoot free throws, I wouldn’t talk to anybody.”

Paul’s thorn in the flesh affected him the same way. He said, “Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was

given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! (II Cor. 12:7). There is a lot we don’t know about the thorn, but there is one thing that Paul makes abundantly clear: the thorn humbled him. It grounded him. And although he prayed three times for God to take it away from him, he acknowledged that through his weakness the power of God is displayed.

What is your thorn in the flesh? Disability? Loss? Poverty? All of us could name something that keeps us from exalting ourselves. It’s a shame when someone cannot name their thorn. They think that they don’t

have a thorn. They’ve never made a mistake. They have no deficiencies. Their thoughts are pure, and their families are perfect. So they continue to exalt themselves.

It’s okay to be flawed. It’s okay to admit weakness. It’s okay to be a work in progress. Someone once said, “Two things I know for sure: There is a God, and I am not Him.”

“Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you” (James 4:10).

“God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (I Peter 5:5).

James Hayes

---