

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Power Of Two

July 21, 2013

Issue 121

Even though God's word teaches that we all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ to give account for our own actions (II Cor. 5:10), and even though we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12), we do not have to walk life's road alone. God wants us to give and receive assistance when we practice our faith. Solomon put it plainly: "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor" (Eccl. 4:9). Paul would not have become the great apostle if Barnabas had not defended his conversion. I am sure it was easier for Aquila and Priscilla to teach the well-educated

Apollos together instead of approaching him individually. Andrew introduced his coworker and brother, Peter, to Jesus.

We should also notice the power of two when it comes to conflict and complaining. In Matthew 18, Jesus said that if your brother sins, you should go to him in private. Then He said, "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed" (Matt. 18:16). Paul told Timothy to use a similar process when someone complains about an elder: "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on

the basis of two or three witnesses" (I Tim. 6:19).

Wouldn't it be great if we were as serious about those commands as we were about musical instruments and women preachers? But many times Christians behave as if the Bible says, "If you have a conflict with your neighbor, gossip about them or run to the elders first." Or, "If you have a problem with an elder, don't talk to them, just build a coalition against them." But the Bible doesn't teach that.

We should respect God's word in our walk of faith and in our conflict resolutions.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Larry Crabtree has been suffering from gout for many weeks. Keep him in your prayers.
- Also remember Caleb Wilson, a Goodpasture senior who was paralyzed from the chest down Sunday when a truck accidentally pinned him against a stone wall.
- The most effective way increase our attendance for the Gospel Meeting is to personally invite your friends!

**Thank You To Those Who Helped Clean The Building Yesterday!
Gospel Meeting With Joey Spann Begins Next Sunday!**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Terry Walker

Pray: Garrett

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: M. Newell

Serve: Donkin, Stuart, E. Walker

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

Proverbs 4:13-15

“Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life. Do not enter the path of the wicked and do not proceed in the way of evil men. Avoid it, do not pass by it; turn away from it and pass on.”

“We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of God, far from it. We have staked the future of all political institutions...upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the commandments of God.”

James Madison, 4th President of the United States

Numb

If you punched 13-year-old Ashlyn Blocker in the stomach, she would feel no pain. If you cut her arm, she wouldn't blink. It's not because Ashlyn has super-human strength, or because she has an extremely high tolerance for pain. Actually, Ashlyn feels no pain. Ever. Never has. She is one of about 100 people in the world who were born with congenital insensitivity to pain with anhidrosis (CIPA). This genetic disorder cuts off all pain signals to the brain. Someone might think, “Great! No pain. That's awesome.” But it's not. Ashlyn's parents had no idea when she bit her tongue. She never screamed when she scratched her eye or broke her arm. Such a disorder

leaves Ashlyn open to all sorts of infections and diseases. Left completely alone, Ashlyn—theoretically—would starve to death because she can't even feel hunger pangs.

There is a point where someone could develop CIPA of the spirit. The apostle Paul said so. “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, *having become callous*, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greed-

ness” (Eph. 4:17-19).

Are you callous to sin? Are you callous to the temptations of Satan? Are you callous to the needs of your neighbor? Are you numb when you worship? Are you numb when you give? Jesus never called us to be robotic believers. He never wanted us to be just slightly more moral than the lost people of the world. Just as Ashlyn's physical CIPA creates disease, our spiritual CIPA will lead to a spiritual death. Hebrews 12:1: “... let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

James Hayes
