

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Greed

August 11, 2013

Issue 124

Leo Tolstoy wrote a story about a successful farmer who was not satisfied with his lot in life. One day he received an offer. For 1000 rubles, he could buy all of the land he could walk around in one day. There was only one catch: He had to be back at his starting point by sundown. Early the next morning the farmer began his journey. He walked at a brisk pace, then he began running. By mid-afternoon, the greedy farmer realized that he was far away from his starting point, and he needed to get back quickly. He ran as fast as he could as he watched the sun fall behind the horizon. With his heart pounding in his chest, the

exhausted farmer collapsed at his starting point. Blood was trickling from his mouth. Even though the farmer accomplished his goal, he never enjoyed his newly acquired land—he died where he lay. His servants buried him in a grave that was six feet deep and three feet wide—all the land the man really needed.

In Mark 8:36, Jesus asked, “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?” Grammatically, that is a rhetorical question, which means that Jesus was not asking the question in order to gain information; the question assumes that everyone knows the answer. But it does not seem like

21<sup>st</sup> century America knows the answer to Jesus’ question. Modern culture tells man that more is always better. Jesus wanted us to pray for *daily* bread, but man is often upset when he doesn’t gain warehouses full of bread.

A friend of mine recently said that the two biggest problems in America are greediness and gluttony, so we need to be more committed to giving and fasting.

I Timothy 6:10: “For the love of money is the root of all sorts of evil...”

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Addie Farmer is still experiencing some pain from a recent fall.
- Good to see Larry Crabtree with us last week.
- Remember to speak to visitors today!
- John Hayes will have one more chemo treatment in late August.
- Families of Bible Bowlers: Be sure to read I Corinthians and Galatians with your children. That’s the best practice!

**Mens’ Meeting Today at 5:00 P.M.**

**Singing Tonight at 6:00 P.M.**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Shelton

Serve: Demonbreum, M. Newell, L. Newell

Pray: Baker

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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 20:1

“Wine is a mocker, strong  
drink a brawler, and  
whoever is intoxicated by it  
is not wise.”

Proverbs 19:17

“One who is gracious to the  
poor man lends to God, and  
He will repay him for his  
good deed.”

*“The Bible is very easy to understand. But we  
Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers.  
We pretend to be unable to understand it be-  
cause we know very well that the minute we un-  
derstand, we are obliged to act accordingly.”*

*Soren Kierkegaard*

*“A Bible that’s falling apart usually belongs to  
someone who isn’t.”*

*Charles H. Spurgeon*

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## When Negativity Is Positive

If you have any experience with social media websites like Facebook and Twitter, you might be experiencing what I call “negativity fatigue.”

The negativity that is expressed on those sites can become tiresome. Some people complain about their kids, their spouse, their neighbors, and their teams constantly. They point out the faults and failings of others on a daily basis, and the rest of us want to yell, “Enough!”

But there is another type of negativity that, when used correctly, is quite positive and constructive. It is the type of negativity that presents truth without apology or hesitation. At times, whether it is on a website or in a personal conversation, we need

to express the truth even if it is defined by some as negative. Lies should not be allowed to take root and flourish.

Jesus taught the truth, yet He might be perceived as a negative preacher. He often told the masses that what they believed or what they did was wrong. If Jesus’ goal was to be likeable, He would have preached differently. If Jesus’ goal was to be considered a positive preacher, He would have preached differently. He stated plainly that His life would not be one of accommodation and confirmation; His life and teaching would shake up the world. “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace,

but a sword” (Matt. 10:34).

At times, we can be too focused on labels. We fear being given a label that is not socially acceptable. But labels like “positive” and “negative” are subjective, so are terms like “conservative” and “liberal.” Our goal should not be to have the right label. Our goal should be to teach and live the truth of God’s word.

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and the intentions of the heart” (Heb. 4:12).

James Hayes

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