

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

When Loss Is Gain

August 18, 2013

Issue 125

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) composed nine symphonies, five concertos for piano, thirty-two piano sonatas, and sixteen string quartets. He is considered by many to be the most famous and influential composer in the history of the world. Yet, despite his fame and immeasurable talent, Beethoven carried a heavy burden throughout his early years: He feared that one day he would lose his hearing. He assumed, logically, that if he could not hear, he could not compose music. His worst fear became reality when, in 1796 at the age of 26, Beethoven contracted tinnitus, a ringing in the ears that progresses into deafness.

He sunk into depression. He was tormented by thoughts of suicide as his hearing gradually faded. But he didn't stop working. When he played his 9th Symphony for the first time, he couldn't hear the thunderous applause from the audience. He spent the last 13 years of his life totally deaf, but still capable of composing the world's greatest music.

Often our greatest fear becomes our greatest gain. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" tormented him. He prayed three times that God would remove it. I believe that if God had removed Paul's thorn, Paul would have still been a faithful missionary to the Gentiles. But God

did not remove it. Since Paul was forced to accept it, he learned a great lesson about himself and God.

"Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses..."(II Cor. 12:9-10).

Deficiencies are not burdens; they are simply avenues by which God's power can be shown to the world. "For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our mortal flesh" (II Cor. 4:11).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- There are many friends and family of Pleasant View members who are battling various stages of cancer: Jessica Humston, Wendell Binkley, John Hayes, Sheila Crouch, and Addie Farmer.
- Also remember Larry Crabtree, Randy Gupton, and Jay and Carolyn Newell.
- Bible Bowl is September 7 for the kids. Continue to study I Corinthians and Galatians.

Question and Answer Sermon Tonight Happy Haven Contribution Today

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Rose

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: Crabtree, Trent, Dalton

Pray: J. 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 97:10, 12
“Hate evil, you who love the
Lord, who preserves the
souls of His godly ones; He
delivers them from the hand
of the wicked...Be glad in
the Lord you righteous ones,
and give thanks to His holy
names.”

*“Probably the greatest harm done by vast wealth
is the harm that we of moderate means do our-
selves when we let the vices of envy and hatred
enter deep into our own natures.”*

Theodore Roosevelt

*“God’s truth judges out of love, Satan’s truth
judges out of envy and hatred.”*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Life Is Better When...

Life would be better if people received flowers *before* they died. The sun would shine a little brighter if Mom and Dad shared a common faith in Jesus. Children would be better educated if their teachers cared as much about being at school as they did about *not* being at school. Song leaders would look enjoy their work more if the congregation sang as many lyrics of the song as they did. Communities would be safer if the citizens were not high on alcohol, illegal drugs, and legal drugs. Teams would learn the value of sportsmanship if their coaches practiced it. Churches would not have to cut funding from missionaries and benevolent works if their members

understood the principle of sowing and reaping. Conversations would be less controversial if the speakers did not love controversy. Satan would not enjoy his work so much if he did not have so many apologists. Politicians would be honored if the voters elected honorable people. Jealousy would not decay the hearts of the insecure if the insecure were secure in their blessings. Household budgets would balance easier if the “need it” outweighed the “want it.” Time would not fly if we stopped to smell the roses. Heaven would not seem so distant if we tried to recreate here. Hell would have a smaller population if God’s children were determined to keep lost souls out of

it. There would not be wars and bloodshed if nations respected the sovereignty, humanity, and property of their neighbors. Crosses would be easier to bear if everyone knew that they didn’t have to bear them forever. Right would always be right and wrong would always be wrong if the world would just accept that those two things exist.

But life is not perfect. We struggle each day to become what God intended us to be. May we all strive every day to increase our faith and improve the world around us.

James Hayes
