

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Churches of Christ & the Monroe Doctrine

September 8, 2013

Issue 127

From the 15th century to the early 19th century, European powers wrestled for control of land in North and South America. The French, Spanish, English, and Portuguese had planted flags from Canada to Chile. In 1823 President Monroe desired to end all European colonization in the Americas. So he issued what was later described as the Monroe Doctrine. The Doctrine stated that if any European country crossed the Atlantic Ocean in search of land, that action would be considered an act of war. Therefore, European exploration of the Americas ended in 1823. The Restoration Movement

in America was a kind of spiritual exploration. Faithful men pulled up their denominational roots and endeavored to do Christian things in Christian ways, considering the Bible to be their only guide. This movement established thousands of congregations and converted millions of lost souls. Throughout the first half of the 20th century, the movement was active, vibrant, and, well, moving. But throughout the last half of the 20th century, the movement stopped moving. The debates stopped. The Gospel Meetings that had been enthusiastically supported by a church's members

became shorter and shorter, and, in many churches, ceased altogether. Paranoia grew: churches became suspicious of their neighboring church's motives and activities. Christians easily jumped from congregation to congregation. Not all congregations have stopped moving. There are many factors as to why a congregation withers on the spiritual vine. But there is no doubt that if a church issues a type of Monroe Doctrine—one that states that no more biblical exploration and movement will take place—that church will gradually decline.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- We are very proud of all of the young people who participated in the Bible Bowl yesterday. We also thank all of the teachers and others who helped order t-shirts, organize the trip, and spend their weekend with our children. The work that was done over the last few months will bless the students for years to come.
- Remember Jessica Humston, Randy Gupton, John Hayes, Mildred Walker.

Men's Meeting Tonight at 5:00

Singing Tonight at 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Gupton

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, JL Shelton

Pray: JW Head

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

Galatians 1:8

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed.”

“Those who are preoccupied with ‘making a statement,’ usually don’t have any statements worth making.”

Thomas Sowell

“Drinking a beer is easy. Trashing a hotel room is easy. But being a Christian, that’s a tough call. That’s rebellion.”

Alice Cooper

“I was always ...trying to make my relationship with God fit into my life instead of making my life fit in with Him.”

Scott Stapp

Foxhole Friends

How many friends do you have? 10? 30? 1,000? How does someone become your friend? Hundreds of millions of people around the world have a Facebook account. On every profile page is a “friends” section. Anyone will tell you that most of the people on one’s friend list are not really friends in the truest sense of the word.

Who are your foxhole friends—people whom you would go to war with? Are they moral people? Do they love Jesus and the church? Do they influence you for good, or do they pull you away from God? When you answer those questions, you will likely realize that you do not have

many friends who love you unconditionally and have your best interests at heart at all times.

Proverbs 27:17 states: “Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.” The Bible also teaches that “in abundance of counselors there is victory” (Prov. 11:14). Conversely, we are also told that “bad company corrupts good morals” (1 Cor. 15:33). When selecting the people who will be your counselors and true friends, consider the criteria that Dr. Alex Lickerman suggests in the online edition of *Psychology Today*.

1. *Common interests.* Don’t try to convince yourself that you can be

friends with someone who shares no common interests with you.

2. *History.* Does this person appreciate and understand my past, and do I understand theirs?

3. *Common values.* If someone is pulling you away from your spiritual beliefs, they cannot be considered a friend.

4. *Equality.* Am I willing to have a friendship with this person that is based on mutual respect and cooperation, or will I let them—or allow myself—to manipulate the friendship for selfish gain? “Users” are not true friends.

James Hayes
