

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Really, Really Dead

**September 29, 2013**

**Issue 130**

Hundreds of years ago in England, disease traveled quickly, and it could wipe out entire villages within weeks. Cemeteries were often too small to accommodate the rapidly rising death tolls. So, like a scene from a horror movie, the oldest bodies in the cemeteries were exhumed, the bones discarded, and a new dead body was put in the old coffin and the old grave. To the shock of the excavators, there were fingernail scrapes on the inside of 1 out of 25 coffins. That's right: Some of those people had been buried alive, presumed dead, but probably just in a coma. To be sure that the same fate would not come upon any-

one else, small bells were tied to the fingers of the deceased. A man would sit by the grave of a recent burial—on a “graveyard shift”—and if he heard the bell, he would quickly dig up the coffin. If someone was retrieved alive, locals would say that he/she was “saved by the bell.”

When someone is baptized in Christ, Scriptures states that he has died to sin. But some want to return to the old life of sin. The apostle Paul asked the rhetorical question, “How shall we who died to sin still live in it?” (Rom. 6:2). He continues: “For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in

the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin” (Rom. 6:5-6).

Do you have “graveyard shift friends”—friends that are sitting by your side, waiting anxiously for you to return to the ways of the world? How often do you ring the bell, hoping that Satan will come to your assistance and offer temporary satisfaction?

“...be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (I Cor. 15:58).

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Bill Johnson is at home recovering from blood pressure and infection issues.
  - Larry Crabtree had two surgeries last week for an infection in his ankle/foot.
  - John Hayes is recovering from his 5th chemo Wednesday.
  - Please give Johnny Walker info for announcements. Mike will not be here.
  - Remember Jessica Humston, Addie Farmer, and Dan Stockmeyer.
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**Building Fund Contribution Today!  
Help Us Get Over The \$90,000 Mark!**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: M. Newell

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

Serve: L. Newell, Gupton, J. Newell

Pray: Terry Walker

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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

Ecclesiastes 3:11  
“He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out the work which God has done from the beginning even to the end.”

*“A good conscience is a continual Christmas.”*

*Benjamin Franklin*

*“Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune.”*

*Carl Jung*

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## Filibuster

Last week, Texas senator Ted Cruz spoke for about 20 hours on the Senate floor in opposition to what is known as “Obamacare.” Technically, it was not a filibuster. A filibuster is a Senate rule (it doesn’t exist in the House of Representatives) that allows members to delay a vote on a bill as long as he/she continues to speak. (That is the fundamental aspect of a filibuster; there are more details.) Cruz was simply using his position to draw attention to something he cared about. But no matter how much Senator Cruz cares about his position, talking will not change the law. Laws only change when votes are taken.

The writer of Ecclesiastes said that

there is a “time to speak” (Eccl. 3:7). But he also says there is a time to plant, gather, uproot, search, tear down, and build up, among other things. In other words, there is a time for talk, and there is a time for action.

Talk is easy. It is easy to go through life connecting one filibuster to another. Rant about this. Complain about that. Criticize those people. Spend weeks and months talking about grand plans and future success.

Action is harder. Theodore Roosevelt gave a speech in Paris in 1910 that was later known as the “Man In The Arena” speech. In it, he describes the difference between the

talker and the doer. “It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood...”

Do you talk about your faith, or do you live it? Is your faith working, or is it dead? Are you in the arena, or do you stand on the outside, critiquing the actions of the faithful? The gospel of Jesus will not spread unless it is lived by His disciples.

James Hayes

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