

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Morality of a Rock

October 20, 2013

Issue 133

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld said that parents use the word “down” more than any other word. They say, “Pipe down. Slow down. Simmer down. Calm down.” Children always want to *do* things, so parents have to slow them “down” by teaching them what not to do. Hopefully parents are also teaching their children what they *should* do—places they should go, people they should talk to, words they should say. It would be a shame if a boy grew up knowing only what he should *not* do and never learn what he *should* do. We should not base our moral code simply on what we don’t do. Many people

are proud of themselves because they don’t drink, don’t cuss, don’t cheat, and don’t break the laws. They don’t wear immodest clothing. They don’t gossip. They don’t cause trouble in church, and they don’t smoke.

But if the “don’ts” are what define your morality, then a rock in your front yard is just as moral as you are. That rock doesn’t do any of those things either. Just sits there minding its own business. No cussing, drinking, or cheating. Do you think Jesus would consider that rock to be faithful? Or do you think that faith also requires some “dos”?

Jesus concluded the Ser-

mon on the Mount by commanding His hearers to *do* something: “Therefore, whoever hears these words of Mine *and acts on them* [emphasis mine, JH], may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matt. 7:24). That sermon has more “dos” than “don’ts.”

What are you going to do this week to serve Jesus? Will you call a shut-in? Will you write a note of encouragement to someone who is sick? Will you finally talk about Jesus to a lost friend? It’s time to starting doing, because our days are very few.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Mildred Walker has been moved to NHC in Springfield. Her address is on the board.
- Christmas bags will be assembled for the residents at Hillcrest Nursing Home. Items needed will be posted on the board.
- Larry Crabtree is at home dealing with blood clots.
- John Hayes and Jessica Humston will have chemo treatments this week.

Cookout At Building This Saturday, October 26, at 12:00

Trunk or Treat After Bible Study On October 30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J.L. Shelton

Pray: J. Newell

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: M. Newell

Serve: Demonbreum, Stuard, E. Walker

Pray: Reed

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 22:15
“Foolishness is bound up in
the heart of a child; the rod
of discipline will remove it
far from him.”

*“Man can no more diminish God’s glory by re-
fusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put
out the sun by scribbling the word ‘darkness’ on
the walls of his cell.”*

C.S. Lewis

*“Prosperity is only an instrument to be used,
not a deity to be worshiped.”*

Calvin Coolidge

Sing With The Mind Also

First Corinthians 14 is not easy reading. There are instructions about gifts, tongues, women’s roles, prayer, and edification. The apostle Paul also gives an interesting instruction about singing: “I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also” (I Cor. 14:15). We understand that verse in the context of the entire chapter, which could be summarized this way: Whatever we do in worship, it should be clearly understood by everyone in attendance; and it should be conducted in an orderly fashion. (Notices verses 4, 12, 16, 26, 33, and 40.)

Many have understood verse 15 to

mean that we should understand the words in the hymns we sing. That’s true: we should. Why should we sing songs that are filled with words and phrases that the worshipers don’t understand? But it seems like Paul’s meaning was much deeper. He is stating that the message of the songs should be understood by everyone who attends the worship. If the unbelievers do not understand what we’re singing, Paul notes, “For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified” (v. 17). (Those who had special gifts were not edifying those who didn’t.)

Even though some of the particulars of first century worship are different than today (regarding use of gifts),

Paul’s instruction is no less valid: Our worship should edify all who attend. Our songs should be meaningful. Unusual words and phrasing should be explained. Songs should be sung at their intended pace and purpose. Some of the most meaningful, soul-stirring sermons ever preached are in the lyrics of many famous hymns.

Every worshiper should sing and express his/her praise to God. Singing isn’t about talent, it’s about thanks. If it is okay for someone not to sing, is it okay for me not to preach?

James Hayes
