

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Pain

November 3, 2013

Issue 135

In light of the horrific storms that ravaged the Northeast last year, Fox News contributor Robert Jeffress said this: “The devastating effects of natural calamities like Sandy are powerful and sometimes painful reminders that there is a Being in the universe greater than us...The belief that we are in control of our fate is an illusion that needs to be regularly dispelled...It’s not always easy to see God’s love in events like Sandy, but that doesn’t negate its reality.”

There is indeed a Being in the universe that is greater than us: God. While I do not believe that God is arbitrarily causing pain on certain people while spar-

ing others, it is obvious that God allows natural disasters and other hardships to occur.

Some people cannot fathom why a supposedly loving God—one who has the power to stop *anything* from happening—would let His followers experience pain. But let’s compare God’s treatment of us to other “real life” situations.

What if a basketball player said this? “Coach, you’re not a very good coach. You just stand there during practice while I’m running up and down the court, and you don’t ever help. My legs are aching, my heart is pounding, and I’m drenched in sweat. What

do you do? Nothing. Just stand there and watch me suffer.” It’s clear that the problem is not with the coach; that’s an athlete that doesn’t know what it takes to be a great at basketball.

What if a child said this? “Mom and Dad, when I got sick last week, you took me to the doctor. He poked me with needles. Then he told me to drink some gross medicine. Why did you let him do that? If you loved me, you would’ve stopped him from hurting me.”

Pain, while not enjoyable nor wanted, often helps us to get where we need to go.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Jessica Humston was taken to the hospital last Sunday with complications from her chemotherapy. She had more scans taken this week.
- Willie Pewitt, father of Pat, the Bakers’ friend, is recovering from surgery.
- Continue to pray for Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, John Hayes, Jay and Carolyn Newell, Larry Crabtree, and Randy Gupton.

A New Sermon Series Begins Today: “Why We Believe...” Q&A Sermon Tonight; Singing Next Sunday Night

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Shelton

Serve: Demonbreum, J. Newell, J. Walker

Pray: M. 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

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.”

“When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Do not fight the thing in detail. Look only at the Lord.

Amy Carmichael

“The Lord does not forgive excuses; He forgives sin.”

Rick Joyner

Faithful Followers

A father was filling out an application form for his daughter who was seeking entrance to a very exclusive college. He came to the question on the form which asked whether the applicant was a leader. In honesty he wrote, "No, but she is a good follower." The application was sent in and a month later a letter arrived notifying him that his daughter had been accepted. At the bottom of the page the dean had written, "Since the entering class of 500 has 499 leaders, we thought that there ought to be room for one follower." (A *Sermon Central* illustration).

There have been scores of books written regarding Christian leadership. But the four most important

books ever written about Jesus—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—are not primarily books about leadership; they are books about followership. Jesus used the strongest possible language to convince His followers that following Him was necessary for salvation (“I am the way...”—John 14:6), and He rejected any suggestion that faithfulness included a ranking system (Luke 22:24-27).

Some disciples of Christ are visible. They are preachers, elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers and the like. We can see what they do for Christ. Their names are on the church sign and in the bulletin. Citizens in the community know the visible Christians.

Other disciples are invisible: Their service is not always seen by the brethren, but it is always seen by God. These Christians deliver meals to shut-ins, send encouraging cards, emails, and notes to those who are hurting, and they are always willing to contribute their time and resources to any church project.

It does not matter whether you are a visible or invisible Christian. The only thing that matters is that you put aside your own ambition and submit yourself to Jesus. “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny Himself, and take up his cross and follow Me” (Matt. 16:24).

James Hayes
