

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

What Are You Looking At?

December 22, 2013

Issue 142

While eating lunch last week at a fast food restaurant, I saw a pickup truck pull into the parking lot. A man and woman got out and took a second to pet a beautiful Irish Setter that was riding in the bed. As the couple walked away, the dog trained his eyes on his masters. He didn't bark. He didn't seem at all restless or nervous. He just fixed his eyes on the front door of the restaurant. The couple calmly ate their meal without giving a second thought to the pet that was patiently awaiting their return. When they were finished, the couple walked back to the truck, petted their dog for a moment, then drove away.

Dogs are fascinating creatures. Their senses are keen, and their loyalty and determination are astounding, all of which makes them great hunters and pets. They also teach humans valuable lessons—one of which I learned from that Irish Setter.

That dog knew who fed and sheltered him. He knew where his masters were. His masters had clearly treated him well, so, based on their previous actions, the dog assumed that they would continue to treat him well once they returned from lunch. So he never shifted his focus. For 30 minutes, he stared at that door.

God has fed and sheltered us. We know that He is with us every day, all around us (Acts 17:27-28). He has treated us well by granting us every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). His track record of faithfulness to us is flawless (I Cor. 10:13; I John 1:9). The question is, will we focus our hearts and minds on Him with the same intensity as an Irish Setter waiting for his masters?

Hebrews 11:6: "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Pick up Christmas cards in the boxes in the back. Thanks again to Donnie and Kristine for putting that together.
- Russell Wilson, Elaine Crabtree's father, is receiving hospice care at home.
- If you'd like to ring in the new year with some of your church family, meet at the building at 7:30 on Dec. 31 for food, games, and fun!
- Pray for others who are sick.

**A.M. Sermon: "All Things Work Together For Good" (Rom. 8:28)
Q&A Sermon Tonight; Building Fund Contribution Next Week**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

Serve: Dalton, JL Shelton, E. Walker

Pray: Crabtree

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

Ephesians 4:31

“Let all bitterness and wrath
and anger and clamor and
slander be put away from
you, along with all malice.”

“A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on the level with a man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the devil of hell. Either this man was—and is—the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You must make your choice.”

C.S. Lewis

Is The Phrase “Church Of Christ” Too Exclusive?

There is a growing trend among churches of Christ to minimize the phrase “Church of Christ.” Some churches have opted for just the word “Church” in describing their congregation; others have used phrases like “Family of God.” Some eliminate any reference to God or Jesus or church in their title, choosing to put the phrase “a church of Christ” in small print at the bottom of their street sign and other advertisements.

I am sure there are numerous reasons why congregations have chosen to do this. I have not visited every congregation nor do I have extensive knowledge of any congregation’s objectives, other than my own. But

in my limited experience, it seems like the churches that have resorted to minimizing the phrase “Church of Christ” are deliberately doing so as a way to distance themselves from the distinctive practices that exist in churches of Christ. After all, why label yourself with a title that doesn’t represent who you are?

Someone recently said, “The phrase ‘church of Christ’ is too exclusive. It makes it sound like we are THE church.” Let’s answer that challenge by deduction. Does the Bible talk about the church? Yes. It is a real thing. Jesus said that He would build His church. So, since the church is real, there must be people who are members of it. Next, how

does one become a member of it? By just saying so? No. One repents of his/her sins and is baptized into Christ. The Lord adds them to the church (Acts 2:47). We are baptized into the body (church) (I Cor. 12:13). The saved people of this world are members of the church—Jesus’ church.

The phrase “Church of Christ” is not exclusive; it’s biblical (Rom. 16:16). And it’s real. And anyone can obey the gospel and be added to it.

Why be ashamed of churches that strive to follow the simple teaching of Scripture?

James Hayes
