

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Low Cost of Happiness

January 5, 2014

Issue 144

The January 2104 edition of *The Reader's Digest* features an article by Michelle Crouch titled, "13 Things Lottery Winners Won't Tell You." It's just 13 quotes from actual lottery winners that might surprise you. Here are a few: "Whether we win \$500 million or \$1 million, about 70 percent of us lose or spend all our money in five years or less"; "After we won the lottery, we bought an eight-bedroom, seven-bath, 10,000-square-foot mansion because we could, and it sounded amazing. Well, now we're selling the eight-bedroom, seven-bath mansion because it's impractical for a family of four"; "After we won and

moved into an exclusive neighborhood, we planned a huge Fourth of July party and invited all our neighbors. None of them came—they thought we didn't earn our money."

It is easy to fantasize about how \$100 million could change one's life. The basic assumption is that more money means less problems. Instead of saving money, you could just write a check for anything you wanted. Instead of arguing with your spouse about how to spend your next paycheck, both of you could get what you wanted. Instead of stressing about your child's college education, you could send them to any college in America.

Perfect, right? Not really.

As the quotes from the real lottery winners suggest, more money does not ease all pain. Even Solomon, who has been known throughout the ages as a wealthy man, regretted his constant pursuit of worldly pleasures: "All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them...Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after the wind and there was no profit under the sun" (Eccl. 2:10a-11).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Continue to pray for Jessica's peace and comfort. She is currently resting at the Billingsley's.
- Mildred Walker turned 95 in November. She is doing well at Morningside Assisted Living in Springfield.
- Continue to pray for Harry York, (David Billingsley's stepdad's brother), Jay Newell, Ad-die Farmer, Randy Gupton, and John Hayes.

**Over \$6,600 Was Collected Last Week For Our Building Fund!
This Morning's Sermon: "It's A New Year...Where Are You?"**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: Terry Walker, Stuard, Gupton

Pray: Rose

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 23:15-16
“My son, if your heart is
wise, my own heart will be
glad; and my inmost being
will rejoice when your lips
speak what is right.”

“No one ever told me that grief felt so much
like fear.”

C.S. Lewis

“The friend who can be silent with us in a mo-
ment of despair or confusion...who can tolerate
not knowing...that is a friend who cares.”

Henri Nouwen

Your Legacy

According to Charles Dickens' diaries, the inspiration for the character Ebenezer Scrooge from *A Christmas Carol* came from a grave marker he saw in 1841 in Edinburgh, Scotland. The marker was for Ebenezer Scroggie, a man who supplied the catering for a visit from George IV to Edinburgh, and it read “meal man.” Dickens, who supposedly had a touch of dyslexia and was viewing the marker at dusk, mistakenly read the marker as “mean man.” He noted in his diary that it must have been awful for old Scroggie to carry “such a thing into eternity.” Dickens changed Scroggie to Scrooge for his Christmas tale, and the rest is history.

Even though Dickens incorrectly categorized Mr. Scroggie, it would, in fact, be terrible for someone to be known throughout time as a mean person. Some reputations are determined by one act, but most reputations are solidified by a series of events over an extended period of time. Figuring that the average person lives into their 80s, it would be a shame for someone to waste eight decades by mistreating people on a regular basis. But it happens.

What will your legacy be? For what will you be known long after you pass from this earth? Will you be known as a resentful person? Are you constantly finding fault in oth-

ers? Are you bitter? Do you deflect your pain upon others?

Or are you generous, contented, and gracious? Are you known as a respectful and respected person? Are you trustworthy? Do you practice the Golden Rule?

Every day we live we are adding another page to our biographies whether we like it or not. Since we do not know when this life will end, we must be daily dedicated to a godly reputation.

“A good name is to be more desired than great wealth...” (Prov. 22:1)

James Hayes
