

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Unconditional Faith

**January 26, 2014**

**Issue 147**

You probably know Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah by their foreign names of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Those three young men were among the best and the brightest in the nation of Israel; that's why they were chosen to be servants of the Babylonian king, Nebuchanezzar, after completing an extensive three-year training program. Those men were in a foreign land, ruled by a pagan king, yet they had found favor in his sight. But no matter how safe things might seem, a faithful person's beliefs will always be challenged.

Nebuchanezzar built a statue and decreed that

when certain instruments played, everyone was to bow down and worship the image, or else be burned alive. Sure enough, one day the instruments were played and *almost* everyone bowed down. Some native Babylonians went to Nebuchanezzar and said that some Jews weren't bowing down, namely Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. When Nebuchanezzar asked the three why they wouldn't bow down, they said that God would support their decision and save them, but even if He didn't, they were not going to serve false gods and a man-made statue.

Satan wants you to bow down to him every day. We

often react to Satan in one of two ways: We either refuse the temptation and expect God to save us, or we give in and sin. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego did neither. Their faith did not depend on heavenly deliverance. They did not dictate to God what He should do for them. They knew that the first commandment was to have no other gods before the true God. Period. So, while everyone else bowed, they stood...and they let God do whatever He thought was best. I would like to think that all Christians have that kind of faith, but I am afraid that few do.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- The Billingsleys need our continued support as they grieve the loss of Jessica. Thank you for what you've done so far.
- Martha Moore, Becky Rose's grandmother, is having trouble standing and walking.
- Cornelia Laney, Joyce Walker's sister, had hip surgery last week.
- Also remember Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, Jay Newell, and Randy Gupton.

---

## Jim Waldron Will Teach Sunday School And Preach This Morning James Will Preach Tonight

### THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: M. Newell

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Shelton

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, L. Newell

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

Joshua 24:15  
“If it is disagreeable in your  
sight to serve the Lord,  
choose for yourselves today  
whom you will serve...but as  
for me and my house, we  
will serve the Lord.”

“Perhaps it takes a purer faith to praise God for  
unrealized blessings than for those we once en-  
joyed or those we enjoy now.”

A.W. Tozer

“Courtesies of a small and trivial character are  
the ones which strike the deepest in the grateful  
and appreciating heart.”

Henry Clay

---

## Is Baptism A Work?

Recently a man asked me if I believed that man is saved by grace and not by works. I immediately said yes. He looked as if he wanted to ask another question, but he quickly changed the subject. I thought about his question later, and I think I know why he was confused when I answered him. He knew that I believed that baptism is necessary for one's salvation. He believes (I assume, based on what little I know of his beliefs) that baptism is a work, and since works do not save us, baptism is not necessary for salvation. Even if I am wrong in my speculation, it's a good topic to address.

There are three types of works mentioned in Scripture: works of the

law, works of merit, and works of righteousness. The first two cannot save us. It is impossible for us to keep the law perfectly and thereby be free of punishment (James 2:10), and if works of merit could save us—if we could earn our salvation by doing enough good things—then Jesus wouldn't have to die for us (Eph. 2:9-10). We do, however, need to perform works of righteousness, not to earn our salvation, but to demonstrate our faith in God.

Nowhere in Scripture is baptism described as a work of merit, but many people today think it is. Those who dismiss the necessity of baptism believe that repentance is necessary for salvation, which is interesting,

considering that repentance by definition requires much more “work” than baptism!

According to Scripture, the following things happen at baptism: Sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38); one clothes himself with Christ (Gal. 3:27); one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38); one dies to his sins (Rom. 6:5-6); and one is saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

Based on these passages, it would be very irresponsible for someone to teach that baptism has nothing to do with the salvation of one's soul.

James Hayes

---