

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Wake Up

March 23, 2014

Issue 154

Until last Tuesday, I had never passed out. I had lived every day of my life in full awareness of my surroundings. But following a blood test on Tuesday, I started getting a weird feeling in my stomach. The next thing I knew I was on the floor of the doctor's office. The nurses said that I spoke coherently while I was out, but I don't remember anything I said or did. Funny how the brain works.

Physically passing out is one thing; spiritually passing out is much worse, but many Christians do it frequently. We go into neutral. We rest. We disengage from spiritual matters. We pray less and worry more.

We neglect worship and Bible study. We seek our own interests. In the midst of our spiritual coma, we might be saying all the right things (like I did when I passed out), but the words are insincere.

Spiritual apathy is not a fruit of the Spirit. Scripture often teaches us to be sober-minded and alert (I Cor. 15:34; Eph. 6:18; II Tim. 3:14). Our ultimate rest will only come when we arrive at our reward in heaven, when death and Satan have lost all of their sting and influence (Rev. 20:10, 13).

Until that glorious day comes, we must daily take up our cross (Matt. 10:38), put on the full armor of

God (Eph. 6:11), and pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17).

When we consider the life of Job, we often focus on how much he lost when God allowed Satan to strip Job of his wealth and most of his family. But we forget the first verse in the entire book: "There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil" (Job 1:1). Job was spiritually alert even though he was a man of wealth and comfort.

You'll also survive if you remain spiritually alert.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Randy Gupton has been having complications from his dialysis treatment.
- Continue to pray for J.W. Head, Mildred Walker, Jay Newell, Addie Farmer, and the families of those who died in the plane crash in Asia.
- Our Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 8-12. We will have classes for the children and the adults each night. Mark your calendar.

Building Fund Contribution Next Week

A.M. Sermon: "The Conditional and Unconditional Promises of God"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: Demonbreum, Reed, Terry Walker

Pray: Brown

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

Psalm 24:1, 3-4
“The earth is the Lord’s, and
all it contains, the world, and
those who dwell in it...Who
may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and
a pure heart.”

“Anxiety is love’s greatest killer. It makes others
feel as you might when a drowning man holds
on to you. You want to save him, but you know
he will strangle you with his panic.”

Anais Nin

“Anxiety is like a rocking chair. It gives you
something to do, but it doesn’t get you very
far.”

Jodi Picoult

The Choicest Bounties Of Heaven

God’s chosen people were the Israelites until the Messiah died on the cross and was raised on the third day. Now God’s elect are those who obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:4-5; Col. 1:13). Anyone who comes to Him—man or woman, resident of the first world or the third world, rich or poor—will be added to His kingdom when they are converted.

The Bible makes no mention of the United States of America. The USA is not Israel. It is not the kingdom of God. American citizens are not saved when they pass certain laws or hang the Ten Commandments on a court house wall. God desires all men to be saved and come to a

knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4). We are saved by grace through faith, not through politics (Eph. 2:8; Heb. 11:6).

Even though American society has always been secular, once upon a time our society respected Christian traditions, and our leaders encouraged the citizens to live in a noble way. Here is an excerpt from a speech Abraham Lincoln gave in 1863:

“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have

forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.”

No matter where we live, and no matter who our leaders are, may we always be thankful for our blessings.

James Hayes
