

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

How Do You Treat The Sermon?

March 30, 2014

Issue 155

Someone once wrote a letter to the editor of a small town newspaper that minimized the importance of preaching in his church. He said that every sermon sounds just like the previous one, and since he owned his own Bible, he could learn everything on his own. Letters of support and disagreement poured in. The most profound letter of disagreement stated this: "My wife has cooked my dinner every night for 30 years. I don't remember any specific meal, but I know that each meal was necessary for my nourishment. The same is true with each sermon I hear."

There are many different

attitudes one might possess while listening to a sermon:

(1) *Confirm*. This person wants the preacher to confirm all of his beliefs. He doesn't want the preacher to challenge him or make him think. He just wants the preacher to validate what he already knows.

(2) *Resign*. This person is apathetic about sermons. He shifts his brain into neutral and thinks about lunch or the Titans for the duration of the sermon.

(3) *Obstruct*. The obstructionist is determined to pick apart the preacher. He is looking for the slightest mistake to pounce on. He wants everyone to know that he is the smartest

Christian in the room.

(4) *Deflect*. Deflection happens when someone thinks the sermon was great...for somebody else.

(5) *Hook, Line, and Sinker*. This person believes anything and everything the preacher says. To him, the preacher is God's right hand man. "My preacher said..." begins many of that person's discussions on faith.

(6) *Engage and respond*. Christians need to engage their hearts and minds with the sermon and respond by studying God's word and applying the lesson.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Jay Newell had a stint put in his heart this week. He is at home now.
- Randy Gupton is still being treated for kidney failure.
- Paula Lee, a member of the community, has leukemia and is spending a month at Sarah Cannon Cancer Center.
- J.W Head is still facing several health issues.
- John Hayes got a great blood report this week.

Building Fund Contribution Today!

VBS = June 8-12. Guest Speakers. Singing and Classes For Children

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Rose

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: M. Newell

Serve: Trent, Donkin, 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

Ephesians 4:31-32
“Let all bitterness and wrath
and anger and clamor and
slander be put away from
you, along with all malice.
Be kind to one another,
tenderhearted, forgiving
each other, just as God in
Christ has also forgiven
you.”

“Joy is what happens to us when we allow our-
selves to recognize how good things really are.”

Marianne Williamson

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke
and saw that life was service. I acted and behold,
service was joy.”

Rabindranath Tagore

“When we think that we are automatically enti-
tled to something, that is when we start walking
all over others to get it.”

Criss Jami

Curing The Disease

There are two sure-fire ways to be-
come the most popular doctor in
town: Make the correct diagnosis,
and offer the correct remedy. It is a
giant waste of the patient’s time and
money if the doctor is treating the
wrong part of the body while the
diseased part is ignored.

Christians make incorrect diagnoses
of spiritual problems all the time.
We treat symptoms instead of dis-
eases. We work around the edges of
problems without focusing on the
real problems. Here are a few areas
where this can happen:

(1) *Abortion*. Abortion is a symptom,
not the disease. I know you think
that’s crazy, but hear me out. An
abortion happens when a woman

doesn’t want to give birth to the
child that is within her. How did she
get to that point? In most cases, she
got to that point due to a series of
immoral decisions. If we cure the
disease of sexual immorality, we cure
the symptom of abortion.

(2) *Divorce*. Supposedly, nearly half
of all marriages end in divorce. We
spend time—as we should—resolving
divorce issues and counseling those
who have gone through that tragedy.
But shouldn’t we spend more time
making marriages stronger? We
would look foolish if we complained
about a series of house fires but
never installed any smoke detectors.

(3) *False Teaching*. Many churches
did not take the time to fully under-

stand the beliefs of their preacher
before he was hired. They simply
checked his resume for the right
schools, right churches, right num-
ber of kids, right number of wives,
and then assumed that everything
else would fall into place. Then he
started preaching. The elders then
try to keep the congregation together
while deciding which is the easiest
way to fire a preacher they hired. If
we address the disease of false teach-
ing on the front end, we will allevi-
ate all of its symptoms on the back
end.

If a problem arises in your life, make
the correct diagnosis. Cure the dis-
ease.

James Hayes
