

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Truth *Does* Exist

April 13, 2014

Issue 157

“What is truth?”

That was the question Pilate asked Jesus during His unjust trial. Give Pilate some credit for even asking the question: twenty-first century Americans rarely ask that question because they do not believe that objective truth exists. To them, all truth is relative. It's subjective. So, if objective truth doesn't exist, then there are no such things as false beliefs or false teachings.

Throughout the New Testament, we are taught that truth does exist, and anything contrary to truth is false. Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you

free” (John 8:32). Later He stated, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). As He prayed shortly before His death, He said, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

After the church was established at Pentecost, false teaching soon followed. Paul warned the Ephesian elders that false teachers would appear innocent at first (Acts 20:28-30). He told the Thessalonians that “[I]f anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him...(II Thess. 3:14). He warned is protégé, Timothy: “For that time will come when they will

not endure sound doctrine, but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires” (II Tim. 4:3).

False teaching and false teachers have existed since the beginning of the church. Identifying false teaching is not an act of arrogance; it is an act of faith and a defense of God's word. But we should be careful not to label something false teaching if it is merely a difference in judgment. Pharisaical attitudes have no place in the church.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Thanks to Jeff and Freddie for filling in for James last week. The Birdwell's Chapel Gospel Meeting went well. Attendance was good each night.
- Men's Meeting tonight at 5:00. If you have any items to be discussed, please give it to one of the men attending.
- Singing tonight at 6:00.
- Continue to pray for Randy Gup-ton, Addie Farmer, Paula Lee.

Easter Egg Hunt This Saturday At 2:30
Singing Next Friday Night, April 25, At 7:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: L. Newell

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Shelton

Serve: Donkin, Trent, Baker

Pray: M. Newell

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

Matthew 18:15
"If your brother sins, go and
show him his fault in private;
if he listens to you, you have
won your brother."

"There is not one blade of grass, there is no
color in this world that is not intended to make
us rejoice."

John Calvin

"When I feel love and see people loving each
other, I see and feel inspiration for creation."

Erica Cartaya

Rendering Unto Caesar

Your name is not on your money. Just check. The only names on cash are the signatures of the Secretary of the Treasury and Treasurer of the United States. There was a similar situation is Jesus' day. When His disciples asked Him whether or not they should pay the poll-tax to Caesar, He looked at a denarius and said, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." So Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:16-17).

This Tuesday is April 15, the last day to file federal income tax. As we have seen from Jesus' own mouth, we have a responsibility to pay taxes.

There are several objections to taxes, though:

- (1) "They waste the money." That's true. And so did Caesar, but Jesus told His disciples to pay taxes anyway.
- (2) "They're stealing my money." You definitely have a legal right to the money you acquire legally. But Jesus never said that the state has no right to collect taxes.
- (3) "Society would be better if there were no income taxes." Taxes are used to provide services for people that the people cannot provide for themselves, like a police force, fire departments, food and house inspections, etc. How much should be

collected and how many services the state should provide is a political debate, not a moral one.

It is important for Christians to be good citizens. Our highest responsibility is to God, and where man's laws and God's laws conflict, we should always side with God.

Thankfully, we live in a country that provides us with the basic right of tax free religious assembly. Hopefully, those rights will be protected in the future. In the meantime, we should represent the Christian life as the life that is best suited for peaceful living.

James Hayes
