

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Unpopular

It is much easier to be popular than unpopular. Fitting in doesn't take too much effort. Just do what everybody else is doing. Follow the crowd. Use the same words, go to the same places, drink the same drinks, and cheer for the same teams. Be a yes-man or a yes-woman. Agree with everything and everybody. If you do those things, you'll be universally loved and accepted. Some might even call you "enlightened," "progressive," or "relevant."

Being unpopular is difficult work. You have to believe in something and be willing to defend it. You have to avoid certain places, certain words, and certain activi-

ties. The validity of your beliefs and the righteousness of your cause will make no difference: you'll still be pushed aside and labeled "hateful," "backward," or "stupid."

The Bible is filled with examples of socially unpopular people. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's statue when the entire nation of Babylon was doing so. Elijah was doing the Lord's work when Ahab called him the "troubler of Israel."

Stephen was stoned for preaching the truth to the Sanhedrin.

Paul told Timothy that "all who desire to live godly in

Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (II Tim. 3:12). We often discuss how to be more Christ-like, but when we do, we typically focus on Jesus' compassion, humility, and love. But if we wear His name as Christians, and if we truly want to be like Him in every way, we must face persecution. We cannot—and must not—be conformed to the world.

Thankfully, the insults we face in this life will not go unnoticed. Peter wrote, "If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you" (I Peter 4:14).

James Hayes

April 20, 2014

Issue 158

Items of Note:

- Vacation Bible School is June 8-12. We have an outstanding group of preachers who bring lessons that week. The theme for the auditorium class is "My Favorite Sermon From \_\_\_\_\_." The first speaker will present a lesson from Matthew, the next night from Mark, and so on through Acts. Make plans to be here and bring a friend!
- Remember Randy Gupton, Jay Newell, Addie Farmer, and Mildred Walker.

**Singing This Friday Night At 7:00 P.M.  
Happy Haven Contribution Today**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Garrett

Pray: Billingsley

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: Demonbreum, Gupton, Brown

Pray: T. Walker

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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

Acts 20:35

“In everything I showed that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

“No evil dooms us hopelessly except the evil we love, and desire to continue in, and make no effort to escape from.”

George Eliot

“There are several good protections against temptation, but the surest is cowardice.”

Mark Twain

“Just because a feeling is natural does not mean it should be indulged.”

Roseanna White

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## Another Jesus

The apostle Paul’s mission was not just to convert the lost and establish churches; he also went to great lengths to be sure those Christians were growing in their faith and defending the true gospel. To the Corinthians he wrote, “But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully” (II Cor. 11:4).

Paul suspected that some false teach-

ers would preach “another Jesus.” I do not believe that Paul was talking about another man who happened to have the same name as Jesus, although that is possible. It seems like Paul was stating that false teachers would present a story of Jesus of Nazareth that was fictional—one that was more pleasing to the masses than the actual Son of God.

I am afraid that Paul’s concerns for the Corinthians have been realized in 21<sup>st</sup> century America. There are many Jesuses being preached today that bear little resemblance to the Jesus of the New Testament.

Today’s Jesus is often presented as the cool guy who never condemns sin. He is politically active. He de-

spises tradition just because it’s tradition. He seeks guidance from the younger generation and segregates himself from older people. He treats God’s word as a book that shifts with modern political winds of change. He is not a Jesus of grace and forgiveness (because both of those things first require sin and separation from God’s will); He simply preaches a gospel of validation and relationship.

There is only one Son of God—Jesus of Nazareth. Any presentation of Him that is not consistent with Scripture is false and should be instantly rejected.

James Hayes

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