

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Grace That Is Greater Than All My Sin

May 11, 2014

Issue 161

If you had to define grace in one sentence, could you do it? I know you believe in it. I know you know that without grace you would be lost (Eph. 2:8). But can you explain it? If not, why not?

Confusion about grace is as old as the New Testament. The apostle Paul, a man who embodied saving grace more than anyone in Scripture, explained the fundamental aspects of grace in Romans chapter 5. He said that sin brought death (v. 12), Jesus brought life (v. 17), and grace abounds in those who were made righteous in Christ (v. 21).

Upon hearing that wonderful news of salvation, many would think that grace is just a synonym for permis-

sion. Someone might say, "I can sin all day every day because grace allows me to do so." Paul disagreed. He knew that sin—no matter if it's practiced by a lost sinner or a saved saint—is a disgusting transgression from God's will and should be avoided. So, in order to combat that notion, Paul reminded them of their baptism. He stated: "Are we to continue to sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" (Rom. 6:1-3).

In Titus 2:11-12, Paul

wrote: "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires..." It seems clear from Paul's writings that grace should cause one to avoid sin, not relish every opportunity to commit it. The Prodigal Son had no interest in returning to the pig pen. He knew the joy, peace, and comfort that he found at home...and he didn't want to leave.

The grace of God saves us, and it motivates us to live righteously in the present age.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Bill Johnson will have surgery this Thursday.
- Randy Gupton will have transplant surgery on May 27.
- Sign ups for the Sounds game are on the back wall. The game is on May 31. Sign up by this Wednesday night.
- Continue to remember Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, Jay Newell, Rick Reed, and Paula Lee Chance.

Men's Meeting Tonight at 5:00; Singing Tonight at 6:00

VBS June 8-12—Classes For All Ages

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: M. Newell

Pray: J.L. Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: L. Newell, Donkin, Baker

Pray: E. Walker

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

**“I remember my mother’s prayers and they
have always followed me. They have clung to me
all my life.”**

Abraham Lincoln

**“If I have done anything in life worth attention,
I feel sure that I inherited the disposition from
my mother.”**

Booker T. Washington

Revelation 20:15
“And if anyone’s name was
not found written in the book
of life, he was thrown into
the lake of fire.”

Gay Marriage...Then What?

Same-sex marriage is currently legal in 17 states. Six states (Utah, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Michigan, Texas, and Virginia) banned same-sex marriage, but those laws are currently being challenged in federal court. Gay marriage is banned in Tennessee by a constitutional amendment that was approved in 2006 by overwhelming majorities in both houses of the legislature and by an 81% majority of voters. All 95 counties voted for the amendment. A few gay couples have symbolically applied for marriage licenses in Tennessee, but they have been turned away. But does that mean that gay marriage will always be banned in Tennessee? No. As of today, the Supreme Court

of the United States has not ruled on a gay marriage case. If the Supreme Court finds that gay couples are allowed to marry under the Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, gay marriage will be legal coast to coast. (The same was true of abortion. Most states had laws that banned abortion. But when the Court ruled abortion to be legal in the first two trimesters, abortion became a right nationwide.)

Gay rights proponents often say that gay marriage has no effect on man-woman marriages. But that’s not true. Every time society redefines what a family is, and then condones and promotes that new definition,

all marriages are weakened. Just in the last few weeks, I have read of three women who are trying to get married in one state. An article on a popular website recently suggested that Americans need to rethink their views on divorce, since—in the author’s mind—fidelity is too much to ask from modern citizens. And so on. It won’t be too long before the terms “husband” and “wife” will be changed since there will be so many varieties of married couples. Things will likely digress to the point where marriage itself will be considered an unnecessary formality.

God help us.

James Hayes
