

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

You Don't Need Permission To Be A Christian

June 15, 2014

Issue 166

Meetings. Committees. Projects. In an effort to be organized, some churches have inadvertently trained their members to think that unless and until somebody gives them an assignment, they cannot serve the Lord. They think that the workers are only those who have biblically mandated leadership positions in the church.

But that was not the mentality of first century Christians. Notice how many of them did not wait for permission in order to serve the Lord. After Lydia and her household were converted, she urged Paul and his associates to stay in her house (Acts 16:15). Barnabas was not com-

manded to sell a piece of property and give the proceeds to the apostles; he just made up his mind to do it (Acts 4:36-37). Paul commended Phoebe for her faithfulness and encouraged others to support her efforts (Rom. 16:1-3). Priscilla and Aquila did not need an evangelism conference in order to take Apollos aside and teach him the ways of the Lord more accurately (Acts 18:26).

Not only do we have examples of first century Christians taking personal responsibility for serving the Lord, but we are commanded to do so as well. "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing

that your toil is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58). "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each one of us is to exercise them accordingly..." (Rom. 12:6). "Do not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary" (Gal. 6:9).

Corporate church events are profitable. There are times when the church needs to act as one unit. But that should not replace the individual Christian's responsibility to serve the Lord daily.

What have you done for the Lord today?

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Addresses for Nita Rayburn and Randy and Chad Gupton are on the back wall.
- Ryan and Keely Mash's new address is 1126 Spring Creek Rd. Chapmansboro, TN, 37035.
- Thank you to everyone who taught classes, led singing, built puppet stages, prepared snacks, and other things that made VBS special!
- If you'd like an audio copy of any adult class of VBS, see Donnie Garrett.

Happy Haven Collection Today Building Fund Contribution Is Sunday, June 29

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Terry Walker

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: M. Newell

Serve: Demonbreum, Reed, Garrett

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

Colossians 4:5-6
“Conduct yourselves with
wisdom toward outsiders,
making the most of the
opportunity. Let your speech
always be with grace, as
though seasoned with
salt...”

“I believe that what we become depends on
what our fathers teach us at odd moments,
when they aren’t trying to teach us. We are
formed by little scraps of wisdom.”

Umberto Eco

“Being a role model is the most powerful form
of education. Too often fathers neglect it be-
cause they get so caught up in making a living
they forget to make a life.”

John Wooden

Benefit of the Doubt

It has been said that man judges others by their actions, but he judges himself by his intentions. In other words, he gives himself the benefit of the doubt. He puts his own actions into context and takes emotions and misunderstandings into account. Wouldn't it be nice if we gave everyone the benefit of the doubt? That wouldn't make us weak or naïve; it would make us gracious and compassionate. Do you give others the benefit of the doubt in these scenarios?

(1). When you see a family of Hispanic people, do you assume they are illegal immigrants, or do you assume they are legal citizens? Since you don't know for sure, do you give

them the benefit of the doubt?

(2). If you see a man wearing an expensive suit and driving a Mercedes, do you instantly think, “What a selfish guy!” or do you think, “I am thankful I live in a country where someone can be that wealthy”?

(3). If you see a man begging for change on a downtown sidewalk, do you rush past him thinking, “Get a job” or do you feel compassion for him because he will be sleeping outside that night?

(4). If someone tells you that a congregation has changed the order of their worship service, do you assume that they're on the road to apostasy, or do you investigate the situation to

know if they have actually violated any Scripture?

The Lord famously said to Samuel, “God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7). If we are to be godly people, we must endeavor to see people the way God sees them. We must look past cultural standards, prejudices, and selfish motives, and see each person as someone God fearfully and wonderfully made. By giving one another the benefit of the doubt, we will be one step closer to fulfilling the Golden Rule.

James Hayes
