

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

What Young Christians Teach Us

July 6, 2014

Issue 169

What did the apostle John, Titus, Timothy, John Mark, and King David have in common? They were all faithful, and they exhibited their faith when they were very young. Jesus was also concerned about serving His heavenly Father at a very young age. All of those men went on to be faithful throughout their lives.

There are many lessons we can learn from young Christians, but some congregations never take the time to learn them, and there are many reasons for that. First, some churches segment the young people from the older members. Everything the young people do is just for them—the worship services, the fellow-

ship events, the service projects, etc. Second, some older members get in the habit of telling younger members to wait. Unless there is absolutely no older people to do the job, the young are told to stay on the sidelines. Third, older members often assume that younger people don't anything, that the only thing that can bring wisdom is age itself.

But older people need to appreciate what younger Christians bring to the congregation.

(1.) *Enthusiasm.* Young Christians have a youthful enthusiasm that is rare in older members.

(2.) *Evangelism.* Young peo-

ple invite their friends to church at a much higher rate than older Christians.

(3.) *Education.* Teenage Christians are learning the Bible for the first time, and they are fascinated by what they learn. They are also acquainted with the condition of the culture in a way older Christians are not.

Every Christian is valuable to a congregation. Regardless of age, each Christian should use the talents God gave him/her. If church members respect one another, the modern clashes over worship issues will likely decline.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Bible Bowl practices start next Sunday at 5:00.
- Heather Mangold's baby shower is this Saturday from 1-3 at the building.
- There will be a youth group activity on July 19th. More details later.
- John Kachelman will be with us next Sunday to give a report on the work in Ukraine.
- Thank you to Jeff Baker for filling in for James Wednesday.

A.M. Sermon: "Christian Challenges" Gospel Meeting Is July 27-30 With David Morris

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School
Read: D. Garrett
Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship
Wait on the Table: E. Walker
Serve: Trent, Gupton, Billingsley
Pray: Terry 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 Samuel 2:2
“There is no one holy like the
Lord, Indeed, there is no one
besides You, nor is there any
rock like our God.”

“A friend is someone who knows all about you
and still loves you.”

Elbert Hubbard

“It is not a lack of love, but a lack of friendship
that makes unhappy marriages.”

Friedrich Nietzsche

“Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.”

William Shakespeare

Choosing Peace

On August 13, 1986, Michael Morton left for work fresh off the celebration of his birthday the previous day. At the age of 32, he had his health, a beautiful wife, and a 3-year-old son. By the end of the day, all of that had been taken away. His wife Christine was brutally murdered at their house, and Michael quickly became the prime suspect. Despite having no witnesses or physical evidence, the prosecution managed to convince a jury that Morton was guilty, and on February 17, 1987, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Morton struggled through the next 25 years. He mourned his wife. He tried to maintain a relationship with a son who believed he had murdered

his mother. All of his appeal attempts failed miserably. Finally, a group of attorneys, working pro bono for the man they firmly believed was innocent, got Morton's conviction overturned after DNA evidence cleared him of any involvement in the crime. On October 4, 2011, after nearly a quarter of a century behind bars, Morton was finally a free man.

Michael Morton could have easily spent his time in jail bitter and angry over the unfairness of his situation. No one would have blamed him if he'd raged through the talk show circuit, blasting the legal system for the injustice he'd suffered. But that's not what he did. He re-

grets the time he lost and works to prevent other miscarriages of justice, but he is happy. “Other people often feel far more anger than I do,” Morton says. He credits his inner peace with the knowledge that “God loves me.”

Even in the worst of situations, do you know that God loves you? When bad things happen, are you filled with bitterness, or are you comforted by the promise that God will “never leave you or forsake you”? (Deuteronomy 31:6) May we all choose peace over anger and joy over bitterness, for that is the blessing of living in God's love.

James Hayes
