

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

What Does *Not* Make Someone A Christian?

July 27, 2014

Issue 172

About three out of every four Americans (73%) describe themselves as Christian. But does that mean that three-fourths of all Americans *are* Christians? When someone says, "I am a Christian" we really don't know the full story. What did they do—if anything—to become a Christian? Does their response to the gospel mirror the responses from Scripture? Here are a few ways in which someone does *not* become a Christian:

(1.) *Just saying you are.* The New Testament is clear that those who became Christians did so by doing something. James wrote, "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by it-

self" (James 2:17). "Me too" does not solve anyone's sin problem.

(2.) *Having your picture in the directory.* Some people make every effort to have their picture in the church directory, but rarely attend worship services, pray, or serve the Lord in any way. The church directory is not the Lamb's Book of Life. It's just a way to collect names, numbers, and addresses.

(3.) *Praying for salvation.* No one in the New Testament every prayed for their salvation, and neither Jesus nor His apostles ever commanded sinners to do so.

(4.) *Being a good person.* There were good people on earth before Jesus died on

the cross. Your good deeds were not the problem—your sins were. Without responding to the gospel, one is still dead in their sins.

(5.) *Sitting in a church building.* Some have the foolish notion that attending worship services saves them. In the New Testament, the sinner was never told to attend worship services in order to have their sins forgiven.

One becomes a Christian by repenting of their sins, confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior, being baptized into Christ, and living faithfully until death. No more, no less.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Our Gospel Meeting begins this morning! Make a special effort to attend each of these services. David is driving a long way to be with us each night, and we thank him for that. He is the father of three daughters, and the preacher for the Highland church of Christ in Columbia. David is an excellent preacher, so invite friends and family to be with us. You never know what sermon might change someone's life.

We Will Eat In The Building After Worship This Morning
Thank You To Jeff And Freddie For Filling In For James Last Week

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: JL Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: Demonbruem, L. Newell, Brown

Pray: Baker

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

Isaiah 41:10

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with My righteous hand.”

“The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was: ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’...But, the Good Samaritan reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”

Martin Luther King Jr.

“The ultimate test of man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”

Gaylord Nelson

Was That A Miracle?

A lot of strange things happen in life. When some of those things happen, we say that a miracle happened. But was it? Was it a miracle that men were able to walk on the moon? Is childbirth a miracle? If a person totals his car and walks away unharmed, was that a miraculous event?

It is true that we use the word “miracle” when we just mean “amazing,” but if we get too loose with the word miracle, we can become confused when we read the Bible. The definition of miracle, as it relates to the hand of God, is this: “A surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore con-

sidered to be the work of divine agency.” The most important part of that definition is “...not explicable by natural or scientific laws.” True miracles—like the ones in Scripture—could not happen in the world we live in without God working outside the world He made. For instance, babies are made when men and women come together. That’s natural. The virgin birth was a miracle because it happened outside the natural order of things. Five loaves and two fish were just enough food to feed the young boy who brought that food to Jesus. When Jesus used that small portion to feed over 5,000, that was a miracle.

It is also important to note that just because you cannot explain why something happened, that doesn’t mean it was a miracle. Man’s understanding of the natural world is still quite limited. Some things might happen today that baffle the intellectuals, but they will have a simple explanation years from now.

Bible miracles were performed so Jesus could confirm His deity. That’s why the word “sign” is often used for miracles in Scripture. Let’s not assign activities to God that He didn’t do, and let’s not deny God’s work when He acts today without miracles, through His providence.

James Hayes
