

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Live By The Rule, Not The Exception

November 2, 2014

Issue 186

There are approximately 100,000 high school seniors playing football in America. Only 9 % (9,000) of them will play college football. Out of the thousands of eligible college football players each year, only 300 are invited to the NFL combine, a training camp for NFL prospects. Just 215 of the 300 end up on an NFL team.

Playing high school football is the rule. It's common. Most high schools rarely cut players from the team. If a kid can handle the physical conditioning, he will likely get a jersey. Playing college football, however, is the exception. It's rare. Yet many parents think their child is the ex-

ception, and anyone who says otherwise—including a coach—is wrong. But 90% of those parents will have their dreams dashed when the rule becomes reality for their son.

Time is wasted when it is spent pursuing or worrying about the exception instead of the rule. The Bible teaches what one must do to be saved. That is the rule, so to speak. But some risk their souls trying to find an exception. They debate philosophical questions like, "What if someone dies in a car accident on the way to be baptized?" or, "What if someone never actually says the words, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God' prior to

baptism?" Hypothetical scenarios do not change the rule: "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

Many Christians have also tried to find exceptions in the doctrine of divorce and remarriage. Jesus gave the only exception (Matt. 19:9), yet some are not content with Jesus' teaching. They'll say things like, "Marriage is harder today than it was in Jesus' day. His teaching on that subject isn't relevant today."

God knows what we need. We should not try to find exceptions to His word. We should simply obey Him.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- The Hillcrest church of Christ is having their Gospel Meeting this week with Ben Flatt. Services start at 7:00 p.m. each night through Wednesday.
- Let Mike Reed know if you'd like to help clean the building.
- Sympathy extended to Macie Shelton on the loss of her brother-in-law, Bill James.
- Remember Rick Reed, Judy York, Jay Newell, Bill Johnson, and Mildred Walker in your prayers.

November Has Five Sundays—Building Fund Contribution, Nov. 30

James' New Email Address: jamesfhayes77@gmail.com

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: M. Reed

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Demonbruem, L. Newell, Terry Walker

Pray: Brown

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

John 8:12

“Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.’”

Once a preacher was wearing a lapel microphone during his sermon. It was not wireless; it was connected by a long cord to the speaker. As he marched back and forth, the cord kept getting wrapped around furniture and flower arrangements on the stage. He tugged and turned the cord several times during the lesson. A young girl was fascinated by his frustration and asked her mother, “Mom, if he gets loose, is he going to hurt us?”

Understanding Proverbs

I think the key verse to understanding the book of Proverbs is found in chapter 12: “The way of the fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man is he who listens to counsel” (v. 15). That doesn’t leave room for know-it-alls, I-can-make-it-on-my-owns, and I-don’t-need-your-advice. Only foolish people put full trust in themselves when making decisions. Wise people seek heavenly counsel.

One of the common misconceptions about Proverbs is that it’s a book of rules; but it’s not. It is primarily a book of principles. These sayings show us divine truth, but they are not to be taken as commands or promises.

For instance, Proverbs 21:9 states:

“It is better to live in a corner of a roof than in a house shared with a contentious woman.” Really? It is better for a man to abandon his wife and move his things to the corner section of his roof? No effort to reconcile. No patience. Just move out and suffer through the heat of summer and the cold of winter. Is that what that verse is teaching? Of course not. It is simply a commentary on how difficult it is to have a harmonious marriage with a wife who is argumentative.

Also, consider the famous Proverbs 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Does that mean that all bad people had bad

parents? What if a couple has four children. Three become faithful, while one has no faith. How should we judge that couple’s parenting skills? How does Proverbs 22:6 fit into this scenario?

Proverbs 22:6 is not a rule with a promise; it’s a principle that contains a truth. The truth is: Children learn faith from their parents (Eph. 6:4). But the New Testament teaches that children have the obligation to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1). The child has the free will to reject his/her parent’s teaching. Unfortunately, many children have done so, but that doesn’t necessarily mean they were not trained correctly.

James Hayes
