

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Gnostic and Self-Esteem

November 16, 2014

Issue 188

Gnosticism was an ancient belief system that had two basic tenets: (1) The spirit is good. One can only come to know God through a collection of philosophy, special knowledge, and metaphysics. (2) The material, physical world is evil: It is entirely disconnected from God, coming into existence through an intermediary being. Naturally, a Gnostic would deny that Jesus was the Son of God because the fleshly world and the spirit world cannot be connected.

Since the flesh was bad, some Gnostics abused themselves. They led lives of extreme poverty. Some even abused their bodies. They thought that the more

they punished the evil flesh, the closer they would be to God. Other Gnostics took a different approach. Since the flesh was bad, they believed that they could “live it up”. They could indulge in anything their bodies desired since that’s what evil things do—they act evil.

Those who have poor self-esteem today live their lives as ancient Gnostics. If someone looks in the mirror and says, “I am no good.” they will treat their bodies in one of the two ways the Gnostics treated their bodies. Some with poor self-esteem will abuse themselves. They will convince themselves that they can never be good enough,

smart enough, or pretty enough, so they’ll overeat, neglect proper hygiene, and/or withdraw from their friends and families. Others will prefer indulgence. They’ll show off in the way they dress, for attention. They’ll drink, fornicate, lie, cheat, and steal because...why not? Bad people do bad things.

God doesn’t want you to abuse your body or indulge in fleshly desires. You are made in the image of God. You are made to glorify God in your body (I Cor. 6:20). Your value does not come from the opinion of others; it comes from the Creator of your soul.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Sympathy is extended to Tracy Cartwright on the passing of her mother, Dot Anglea. Services were Saturday.
- Bill and Tracy Cartwright’s address: 8166 Lain Hollow Rd. Joelton, TN 37080. Phone: 876-2853.
- Steven Hayes had kidney stones last week. Doing better.
- Remember Mildred Walker, Rick Reed, Judy York, Addie Farmer.

Happy Haven Children’s Home Contribution Today Last Building Fund Contribution Of The Year In Two Weeks

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Baker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: Demonbreum, L. Newell, Reed

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

Jeremiah 29:11
“For I know the plans I have
for you,’ declares the Lord,
‘plans for welfare and not
for calamity to give you a
future and a hope.”

“The two most important days of your life are
the day you were born and the day you find out
why.”

Mark Twain

“Every man has his secret sorrows which the
world knows not; and often times we call a man
cold when he is only sad.”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Psalms And Hymns And Spiritual Songs

Twice in the New Testament we are commanded to speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). In the first century, those songs were usually psalms from the Old Testament, and they were likely chants, since four-part harmony was invented much later.

Of all the avenues of worship we participate in each Sunday, singing has the least regulations. We are told how and when to eat the Lord's Supper, and the purpose of the event (Matt. 26:26-29; I Cor. 11: 20-29). We are taught why we should give, as well as how and when we should give (I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:6-7). Paul instructed Timothy how

to preach, when to preach, and the affect of proper preaching (I Cor. 1:21; II Tim. 4:2). But when it comes to singing, we are just told to sing and know what we're singing (I Cor. 14:15).

Do you know what you're singing in worship? Do you understand the theme of the song? Do you understand what the words mean? In recent decades, churches have fussed over which spiritual songs are proper for worship. Some have deemed certain songs “devotional songs” (and therefore excluded them for use in Sunday morning worship), and others roll their eyes when asked to sing an old hymn, one that uses a lot of King James vocabulary.

The Bible doesn't forbid the use of either type of song. If it is a psalm, hymn, or spiritual song, it is appropriate for worship. It is a shame that some older members refuse to learn new songs for worship, but they insist that younger people learn old songs. That's a bit hypocritical. Spiritually immature young people do the same—they'll reject old hymns out of hand without recognizing their spiritual value.

Instead of worrying about the age of songs, let's just do what the Bible tells us to do—SING!

James Hayes
