

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Leaving A Mark

November 23, 2014

Issue 189

His fans have no idea who he is, or even if he is a he— he might be a she, or a team of artists. He (as I will refer to him) is known in the art community as Banksy, a reclusive artist who does his work on public buildings and streets in New York City without permission, causing former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg to call his work “vandalism”. His works don’t stay on the buildings long: locals often cut the works right out of the wall and sell them at auction for \$100,000+. Some of his non-street art has sold for nearly \$500,000. Many critics, however, have panned his talent. *The Guardian* satirist

Charlie Brooker said that Banksy’s work “looks daz- zlingly clever to idiots.”

The work of Banksy has many similarities to the Christian life.

First, Jesus told us to leave our mark on the world, not through vandalism of course, but with our godly influence. He told us to be salt and light in a bland and dark society.

Second, our faith and objectives are inexplicable and mysterious to the lost. Paul told the Corinthians that the word of the cross was foolishness to those were perishing, but to us it is the power of God (I Cor. 1:18).

Third, when we leave a place, those who are left

should treasure our time with them. Our work does not have monetary value like a rare Banksy painting, but it should be a heavenly treasure. It has been said that you are the only Christian some people ever know. That’s true. Knowing that, is Christ evident in your life? What mark are you leaving on this world?

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- James is continuing his series on the apostles this Wednesday night. This week we will study Peter, as well as recognize our blessings in thanksgiving.
- Continue to remember Judy York, Rick Reed, Bill Johnson, Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, Jay and Carolyn Newell, the Towe and Phifer families, the Bratcher family, and all those affected by the blizzard in Buffalo.

Happy Thanksgiving! Building Fund Contribution Next Week

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Billingsley

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: Trent, J. Walker, JL Shelton

Pray: M. Newell

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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

“Be the change that you wish to see in the
world.”

Gandhi

“Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no
one thinks of changing himself.”

Leo Tolstoy

Psalm 3:3

“But You, O Lord, are a
shield about me, my glory,
and the One who lifts my
head.”

Three Untruisms

Steve Higginbotham wrote an insightful article recently titled, “Five Untruisms Heard In The Church”. I will present three here, but add my own perspective.

(1). *God won't give us more than we can bear.* This phrase has its roots in I Cor. 10:13, which states in part, “... God...will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able...” But notice that this is in the context of overcoming temptation. God will *certainly* allow unbearable things to happen to us. We must then either be crushed or find strength in faith. In II Cor 1:8-9, Paul stated, “...we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life, in-

deed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead.” So maybe it's better to say, “God is strong enough to bear *all* of our burdens.”

(2). *Everything happens for a reason.* We believe in a sovereign God. We believe in providence—God working in the lives of people through non-miraculous means. But does that mean that *every* step we take, word we say, and place we go is dictated by our heavenly Father? No. Throughout Scripture, we see man acting completely outside the will of God. In other words, some things just happen. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said, “And

by chance a priest was going down on that road...” (Luke 10:31). So maybe it's better to say, “God can use anything that happens to us to further His will.”

(3). *Better Safe Than Sorry.* This has been the unspoken motto of many Christians and congregations, but it has been overused quite often. Too much “safety” can produce paralysis. It would've been safer for Abraham to stay at home, for Jonah to preach somewhere other than Ninevah, and for Moses to keep being a shepherd. But the world was blessed when all three men acted boldly in the name of God. So maybe it's better to say, “Better godly than cowardly.”

James Hayes
