

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

“Find A Preacher Who’ll Make It Right”

January 18, 2015

Issue 197

A few weeks ago I was eating lunch with a local preacher, and we were “talking shop”—sharing ideas and experiences in ministry. He said that recently he had a counseling session with a couple who had asked him to preach their wedding. (He withheld their names.) He said that as they discussed their relationship, he came to the conclusion that he could not preach their wedding in good conscience: the circumstances of their past marriages raised red flags. The prospective groom then said to the minister, “Well, I guess we need to find a preacher who’ll make it right.” The preacher explained that a

preacher can’t make anything right that is wrong, but the man didn’t understand that. In his mind, if a preacher preaches a wedding, the marriage becomes a divinely-approved relationship.

Many think that preachers can wave a magic wand over a sinful situation and make it holy. “If I can find a preacher who says it’s okay, then it’s okay,” the thinking goes. The simplest summary of a preacher’s responsibility is in II Timothy 4:2: “[P]reach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.” That verse tells preachers what to preach (the word) and

when to preach (any time). It also instructs preachers to correct and encourage while being patient with the hearers. Nowhere in the New Testament does it state that a preacher can alter an immoral situation with a divine blessing.

This false thinking was predicted in Scripture. Paul told Timothy in the next two verses that people will try to find teachers “in accordance with their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths” (II Tim. 4:3).

If you have sinned, repent. Don’t try to find a preacher to “make it right.”

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Addie Farmer is being treated at Northcrest Hospital for several infections.
- Freida Perry is still recovering from a pacemaker malfunction and a cold. Her address is: 222 Village Square, Apt. 300, Pleasant View, TN, 37146.
- Happy Haven contributions can be put in the envelopes on the back of the pews & put in the baskets along with your regular contribution.

Happy Haven Children’s Home Collection Today A.M. Sermon: “What Is Your Method Of Interpretation?”

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Garrett

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: Demonbreum, Billingsley, L. Newell

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

Psalm 42:5

“Why are you in despair, O
my soul? And why have you
become disturbed within me?
Hope in God, for I shall
again praise Him for the
help of His presence.”

*“I do not feel obliged to believe that the same
God who endowed us with sense, reason, and
intellect has intended us to forgo its use.”*

Galileo

*“We pretend to be unable to understand the
Bible because we know very well that the min-
ute we understand, we are obliged to act accord-
ingly.”*

Soren Kierkegaard

Dictating Your Gender

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, two famous, attractive movie stars, have an 8-year-old daughter who has decided that she wants to be called John from now on. And she wants to be identified in every way as a boy. Her parents have accommodated her request. Many social “progressives” (or more aptly described “regressives”) have applauded this family’s decision. George Takei, a gay man who starred in the original *Star Trek* TV series, wrote this on his Facebook page: “I hope the example that Jolie and Pitt set as parents will help many families where children do not identify with the gender assigned them at birth.”

It is quite startling how the socially liberal elite in America, who pride themselves on a greater understanding of life, science, religion, etc., evidently cannot tell the difference between a boy and a girl. If a person can wait until years after birth to decide if he or she is a he or she, then what should doctors say when they show a woman the pictures from her ultrasound? “Congratulations, you’re having a... well, we don’t know. Call us back in 10 years and tell us what this “thing” has decided to be.”

Yes, that scenario sounds absurd, but not more absurd than an 8-year-old deciding for herself to be a boy. Absurd begets absurd.

It is interesting that Mr. Takei says that the girl’s gender was “assigned” to her. On that, Mr. Takei and I agree. Her gender was assigned. But I assume that we would disagree on who (or what) made the assignment. I contend that God made the assignment. He knew that girl before she was born, and it is her duty on earth to fear God and keep His commandments, which is the same purpose for all mankind (Eccl. 12:13).

Gender reassignment/confusion/mis-identities is the latest in a series of digressions from God’s will for man. And it won’t be the last.

James Hayes
