

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Predicting The Future

February 22, 2015

Issue 201

Warren Buffet is widely considered to be the most successful financial investor in American history. His company, Berkshire-Hathaway, owns enormous shares of a wide variety of companies. When Buffet speaks, investors listen.

But even Buffet makes bad financial decisions. Why? Because he cannot predict the future. Over the years, when the price of oil was souring, Berkshire-Hathaway gobbled up millions of shares of Exxon. The company held \$3.7 billion in Exxon stock by 2013. The price of oil has plummeted, however, due to increased domestic supply. In the fourth quarter of last year, Buffet sold his 41

million shares of Exxon, losing billions of dollars in the process.

God gave us the gift of memory, but, with few exceptions in the history of man, He has not given man the gift of prophecy. We are often disappointed when we make bold claims about the future.

Consider marriage. Nearly every couple has a vision of the way their marriage will be. The foolish bride or groom will vow to be faithful as long as the vision is fulfilled. The wise bride or groom will vow to be faithful no matter what happens. A wise man once told me, "When you get married, you are marrying who

that person was yesterday, who they are today, and who they'll be tomorrow."

Consider faith. Many, like Job's wife, predict that God will never let them stub their toe, so if their toe is stubbed, they'll quickly abandon their faith in God. The apostle Paul didn't let his immediate circumstances derail his faith. He said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

Stop living in the "what ought to be." Start living in the "what is." Stop making bold predictions. Simply vow to remain faithful no matter what happens.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Bill Johnson is now home after another stay in Vanderbilt.
- Continue to remember Mildred Walker, Rick Reed, Judy York, Addie Farmer, the Newells, Maxine Hearn and JW Head.
- Please give your email address to Janet Tabor if you haven't already. She distributes news items during the week as needed. It is a good way for us to stay informed.

Directory Pictures Will Begin Today
If You Haven't Given Your Info Forms To Mike Or James, Please Do

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School
Read: J. Buchanan
Pray: JL Shelton

Morning Worship
Wait on the Table: Brown
Serve: Trent, Billingsley, Reed
Pray: E. 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

“Racism does not have a good track record. It’s been tried out for a long time and you’d think by now we’d want to put an end to it instead of putting it under new management.”

Thomas Sowell

Ephesians 4:26-27
“Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.”

“Nobody can hurt me without my permission.”

Ghandi

Semantics

In *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet is trying to convince Romeo that he is who he is, regardless of his family name, and that they should be together. She says, “What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet” (Act II, Scene II). Juliet did not embrace semantics—the tedious study of words in order to properly define a person or thing. You can call something whatever you want; but that won’t change its substance.

Words matter. Sticks and stones can break someone’s bones, and words can break their heart. But we need to recognize that words do not change a person or a situation. Calling someone a name says more

about you than it does about them. Calling a woman beautiful does not make her beautiful to all people; others might not think she is.

Our politically correct society loves playing with words, thinking that changing the name of something changes its value or substance. This started years ago. Adultery used to be adultery, but that sounded too harsh, so the exact same act is now called an “affair”. Sounds more appealing and benign, doesn’t it? Homosexual was changed to “gay”, a word that had previously only had one meaning: to be happy or care-free. Illegal immigrants are now called “undocumented workers” by some. The examples are endless.

We can change the name of something to make it sound better or make it sound worse. But this is a form of deception. It’s an effort to divert someone from the whole truth of a matter. The Bible says that our speech should be straightforward (Matt. 5:37), gracious (Col. 4:6), limited (Prov. 10:19), non-confrontational (Prov. 15:1-2), and honest (Prov. 12:22).

Instead of getting caught up in semantics, let’s strive to improve ourselves and the situations around us. Renaming something is shallow and ineffectual.

James Hayes
