

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Three Spiritual Clichés

March 1, 2015

Issue 202

A cliché is defined as “a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought.” Our church language is full of clichés. All of the clichés are used sincerely, but they’re overused nonetheless. We need to be particularly careful about prayer clichés, because Jesus said that our prayers should not be filled with “meaningless repetition” (Matt. 6:7). Beyond prayer, there are phrases used in the greater religious world that also need to be reexamined.

(1). “*It’s a God thing.*” Someone usually says this after all explanations for an event have been exhausted. If science, common sense, or history can’t explain why

something happened, then it must be a “God thing”—God intervened in a way that’s beyond human comprehension. But let’s be clear: *Everything* is a God thing. *Every* good and perfect gift is from above (James 1:17). Dr. Jim Baird recently said, “If you traveled to the bottom of the ocean and retrieved an unusual fish, would you say, ‘It’s an ocean thing’?” Paul said, “In Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28).

(2) “*What would Jesus do?*” Assuming you know the mind or intention of God is dangerous. Assuming you can formulate what Jesus would do in a particular moment today is equally

dangerous. All we know is what has been revealed to us in Scripture. Our concern should be for what Jesus did and commanded. Too often we think that Jesus would approve of our actions.

(3) “*Everything happens for a reason.*” Essentially, that statement is true. The problem with it is that it offers no relief, encouragement, or understanding. Plus, no one wants to accept that the reason something happened is because they made a poor decision. We usually think that some outside force is to blame.

Let’s think before we speak and avoid spiritual clichés.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Addie Farmer had complications after leaving NHC last week and is currently in Ashland City hospital. She is improving.
- Please let the men know when is the best week for VBS. We need to invite our guest speakers as soon as possible.
- Our Gospel Meeting will be the last week of July.
- Continue to pray for Rick Reed, Judy York, Maxine Hearn, JW Head, and the Newells.

## Directory Pictures Continue Today

If You Haven’t Given Your Info Forms To Mike Or James, Please Do

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Terry Walker

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: Demonbreum, L. Newell, D. Garrett

Pray: Brown

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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

I John 4:1  
“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

*“You may delay, time will not.”*

*Ben Franklin*

*“Time is an equal opportunity employer. Each human being has the exact same number of hours and minutes in each day. Rich people can’t buy more hours. Scientists can’t invent more minutes.”*

*Denis Waitley*

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## Rationalizing Ourselves To Death

On Thursday I ate a huge bowl of banana pudding. I was great. While I was eating it, I thought about how much fat, sugar, and calories were in that bowl. But then I thought about the potassium. Bananas have a lot of potassium, so that giant bowl of banana pudding must be good for me, right? Wrong. Any sane person would not conclude that a bowl of banana pudding is healthy just because it contains some potassium. Overall, it’s not a healthy dessert.

We can rationalize anything, can’t we? But no matter how we explain things away, reality is all that matters. For example, marijuana is becoming legal in more and more states. Some might consider using

marijuana and say, “Marijuana has never killed anybody. There is no such thing as Marijuana Anonymous. So, if it becomes legal, I’m going to use it.” Makes sense, right? If that’s your rationalization, you’re also probably eating the banana pudding for the potassium. Marijuana alters one’s thinking—you get high from using it. Has anything bad ever happened to someone because they were high? All the time. When people get high, cars get wrecked, girls get taken advantage of, and people will say and do things they’d never say and do if they were sober. Overall, using marijuana is dangerous and foolish, regardless if it is legal or not. I Cor. 6:12: “All things are law-

ful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.”

Rationalization happens most frequently in the church when it comes to divorce and remarriage. There are myriad scenarios for why divorce happens. Then the divorced person considers whether or not he/she can remarry. Most of the time, the divorced person says, “Yes, I know God would support me if I remarried,” even if fornication never took place. No matter how someone comes to that conclusion, Matt. 19:9 still stands. Rationalization cannot change the facts.

James Hayes

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