

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

What Snow Teaches Us

March 8, 2015

Issue 203

Late February and early March gave Southerners what they wanted—measurable snow. It had been four years since Nashville had over an inch of the white stuff. It's amazing how crystallized water can alter our lives...and teach us valuable lessons.

(1) *Snow shows us how dirty everything else is.* Snow (obviously) is white. The whitest white. It makes your house look dingy. The dirt on the road mixes with the snow to produce gray slush. The white snow reminds us of the purity of God. His word, the Bible, seems even "whiter" when placed beside our sinful actions.

(2) *Snow shows us where we are going and where we have been.* Crime goes down during snowy periods. One reason is that the snow marks the path of the criminal: if he steps on the snow, he leaves a perfect footprint. Think of all the years you have lived and the roads you have taken. Do you regret some of those paths? Snow reminds us that each step we take makes a difference.

(3) *Snow lowers the volume on life.* I love walking outside when there is snow on the ground. It's almost eerily quiet. Summer's bugs and insects are not clamoring. People are off the roads and in their houses. Things seem more peaceful. The

Bible tells us to "be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). Snow turns down the volume on our hectic lives. We should use those moments to remember our blessings.

(4) *Snow slows us down.* The work you thought you *had* to do gets put aside, and you still have a job. The school systems make adjustments to the schedules, and everything gets worked out. You have to cancel appointments, but you just reschedule. Snow slows us down. Sometimes we don't need to do more; we need to do less.

God's creation teaches us without words!

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- 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. The format of the meeting will be a little different this year. More details later.
- Continue to pray for Rick Reed, Judy York, Maxine Hearn, JW Head, and the Newells.

**Men's Meeting Tonight At 5:00. Singing Tonight at 6:00
Directory Pictures Continue Today—Just Takes One Minute!**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Cartwright, Trent Walker, Baker

Pray: M. Newell

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

II Corinthians 5:21
“He made Him who knew no
sin to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become the
righteousness of God in
Him.”

“Truth never damages a cause that is just.”

Gandhi

*“My argument against God was that the uni-
verse seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had
I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does
not call a line crooked unless he has some idea
of a straight line.”*

C.S. Lewis

Victimization

There is nothing more humiliating or painful than to be a victim of a crime. Even when the physical pain subsides (if there was any), the emotional scars remain. A victim can easily become paranoid, depressed, and afraid. Even when justice is served, the victim often does not find relief.

Unfortunately, there are some people who embrace victimization. That's right. Being a victim provides those people with things they cannot achieve through other means.

For instance, victimization brings *attention*. In a world of instant news and shocking headlines, some people feel left out. “No one notices me,” they think. So, by becoming a

victim, he or she gets the attention they crave. Their story of victimization—whether real or fabricated—is told countless times. They'll tell any tale that draws the “ooh and ahhs” from the listeners.

Also, victimization provides an *excuse*. Why did someone commit a crime? Because he was the victim of poor parenting. Why did you leave your spouse? Because my spouse didn't do things I liked. Why did you leave the church? Because the leaders didn't cater to me. And so on. Many think that if they can establish themselves as a victim, they are free to say and do anything they please. They have a built-in excuse for their behavior.

Finally, victimization produces *sympathy*. “Nobody cares about me” is the philosophy that drives those who use victimization for sympathy. They think the only way they can get hugs, “I love yous”, and other words of encouragement is by portraying themselves as a constant victim.

In Christ, we are victorious (Rom. 8:37). We might be the victims of real religious persecution on earth, but we will still be winners in eternity (II Cor. 4:17). Jesus commanded us to be shining lights, not dim victims. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Let the world see that!

James Hayes
