

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Start Where They Are

March 29, 2015

Issue 206

Imagine a man traveling from Boston, MA to Memphis, TN. Once he gets to Nashville, he asks the cashier at a gas station, "How far is it to Memphis?" The cashier replies, "About three and a half hours." The man heads west on I-40, stopping in Jackson, TN for dinner. As he's leaving, he asks that cashier the same question: "How far is it to Memphis?" This cashier says, "It's about an hour and a half." The traveler asked the same question but got two different answers. Why? Because he was at a different point on his journey each time he asked.

This concept applies to Bible study and evangelism. First, let's consider how it

applies to Bible study. A Bible student must understand that the entirety of God's plan for redeeming man is not found in one verse or chapter. The story of Jesus and man's response to Him starts in Genesis and ends in Revelation. So, a verse on baptism might not mention repentance. A verse on confession might not mention faith. And so on. Each aspect of the gospel is addressed when that part is applicable to a particular situation or audience. In other words, some individuals or churches were already in Jackson, while others were still in Nashville.

In evangelism, we must remember that each person

we encounter is at a different point in their relationship with God. Each one will ask, "What must I do to be saved?" but the answer might be different for each person. To the one who has been baptized, the answer would be, "Continue to live faithfully until death." To the one who has never known of baptism, the answer would be, "Be immersed for the forgiveness of your sins."

Understanding God's word in its broader context and meeting people where they are when evangelizing will make us more effective in the kingdom.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Maxine Hearn had a scan Monday for pancreatitis and will also have a procedure on her eye soon.
- JL Shelton is still recovering from broken ribs and a mild case of pneumonia.
- Check the directory on the back wall. Make sure all of your information is updated.
- VBS is scheduled for June 21-25.
- Our Gospel Meeting will be the last week of July.

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4; Give Candy To Kim Walker Building Fund Contribution Today!

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: Demonbreum, J. Walker, Billingsley

Pray: JL Shelton

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

Hebrews 11:6
“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

“It is amazing how complete is the delusion that beauty is goodness.”

Leo Tolstoy

“Youth is happy because it has the capacity to see beauty. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old.”

Franz Kafka

Three Responses To The Gospel

One thing has been true of every sermon I have preached over the last 15 years: each one ended with an “invitation” and “invitation song”—a time when the hearers can publically declare their desire for baptism or prayers. Jesus gave the first gospel invitation (Matt. 11:28-30), and people have been accepting or rejecting that invitation ever since.

Few sermons in Scripture were designed like modern sermons, with a clear introduction, main points, and conclusion. The one that resembles a modern sermon the most is the sermon Paul preached on Mars Hill in Athens, Greece in Acts 17. He begins by addressing a need (“Therefore what you worship in

ignorance, this I proclaim to you”—v.23), makes several connecting points about the existence and power of God (“He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things”—v. 25), and ends with a soul-piercing conclusion (“Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent”—v. 30). As you are reading that sermon, you would almost expect Paul to say, “Let’s stand and sing” at the end.

Not only was the sermon similar to modern sermons, but the responses were nearly identical to today’s responses. The Bible states: “Now when they heard of the resurrection

of the dead, some began to sneer, but others said, ‘We shall hear you again concerning this’...but some men joined him and believed...” (vs. 32-34).

Until Jesus comes again, all people will respond to the gospel in one of those three ways. They’ll either sneer, think about it, or believe. Unfortunately, we are living in an age when the sneerers (is that a word?) are dominating the cultural landscape. It’s cool to sneer these days—it passes as enlightenment. But we shouldn’t be discouraged by the sneerers; we should humbly seek ways to change the thinkers into believers.

James Hayes
