

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Overcoming Evil

**April 12, 2015**

**Issue 208**

It is not easy to suffer an injury without retaliating; our instinct is to strike back. So Jesus taught us a better way. In the Sermon on the Mount, after quoting the part of old law that actually restrained human vengeance (“An eye for an eye...”), Jesus went a step further. He said that we should not match our enemy insult-for-insult, but rather endure the injury without any response. If a man hits you, let him have another slap. If he sues you, give him more than he asks for. If he forces you to go one mile (as a Roman soldier might compel a Jew to do), go another mile with him. I don’t believe that Jesus was teaching us to be

the doormats of society or defenseless weaklings. He was simply stating that it’s okay to lose. It’s okay to let it go. It’s okay to take a hit without giving one back. He wanted His disciples to be known as generous people, not vengeful, stubborn, win-at-all-costs, make-mountains-out-of-molehills people. As the old saying goes, you can’t get ahead if you’re always trying to get even.

The apostle Paul echoed Jesus’ instructions when He wrote to the Romans. “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing so you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome

by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Rom. 12:20-21). If a Christian treated his enemies this way, he wouldn’t have many enemies.

So ask yourself: If people are always picking on me—especially for my faith—is the continual conflict my problem or their problem? Am I fueling the animosity by submitting to my vengeful nature, or am I treating my enemy the way Jesus proscribed? The white flag of surrender is sometimes a sign of great strength.

“If possible, as far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men” (Rom. 12:18).

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Thanks to Mike Reed for taking the pictures, organizing, updating, and sorting our new directory.
- James plans on doing a Question and Answer sermon next week. Give him any questions you might have.
- Pray for Maxine Hearn, Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer.
- VBS is scheduled for June 21-25.
- Our Gospel Meeting will be July 26-29. Tim Agee will be the speaker.

**Men’s Meeting Tonight At 5:00**

**Singing Tonight At 6:00**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Walker

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: E. Simpkins, Demonbreum, L. Newell

Pray: E. Walker

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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

Matthew 7:24  
“Therefore everyone who  
hears these words of Mine  
and acts on them, may be  
compared to a wise man  
who built his house on the  
rock.”

*“There is nothing noble in being superior to  
your fellow man; true nobility is being superior  
to your former self.”*

*Ernest Hemingway*

*“Humility has nothing to do with the insecure  
and inadequate. Just like arrogance has nothing  
to do with greatness.”*

*Joy Bell*

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## The Right Time

Timing is everything.

The comedian knows that pausing too long or not pausing long enough can ruin the joke. The groom knows that if he had met his bride a year earlier or a year later, he wouldn't be marrying her. The job applicant knows that the right person has to read his résumé on the right day, or else he won't get the job. Timing is significant in our spiritual history as well. Galatians 4:4: “But when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.” Jesus wasn't born a minute too soon or a minute too late.

It's encouraging to know, however, that some things we say are not con-

strained by time and place. We don't have to wait for just the right moment. We can say certain words and phrases and always know that they're appropriate (Col. 4:6). For instance...

(1) “*Thank you*” is always appreciated. When you show gratitude for even the smallest gestures, it encourages the other person and demonstrates good character.

(2) “*Please*” shows everyone that you're not a selfish dictator.

(3) “*I'm sorry*” is sometimes difficult to say, but it goes a long way in repairing damaged relationships.

There are rarely situations where

you are 100 percent innocent. Admit your faults.

(4) “*Amen*” is a word that is nearly always associated with prayer. The Bible teaches us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). There is never a wrong time to pray. We should always be taking our hearts and minds to the Father for forgiveness, courage, guidance, and blessings.

No one has ever regretted saying those four phrases. When you use them regularly, you gradually become the humble person God wants you to be.

James Hayes

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