

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Banishment

In the 1960s, U.S. Sugar built 61 concrete bungalows in Pahokee, FL to house the migrant workers who toiled in the surrounding farmland. Today those bungalows are inhabited by people who have nowhere else to go. They aren't farmhands. They aren't disabled. They are sex offenders—men and women who have already served time in prison but are now forbidden from living anywhere from 1,000 to 2,500 feet of where “minors might conceivably convene.” The community is four miles from the nearest town. The residents call it City of Refuge. The state calls it justice.

No matter what you think

of this type of punishment, the idea of banishment brings to mind Jesus' description of hell. As He described the eternal separation of the faithful from the lost, He said, “Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels’” (Matt. 25:41).

There are several disturbing elements to Jesus' declaration, but the worst aspect of condemnation is in the first phrase—“Depart from Me”. Fire is not the worst part of hell, nor is it the eternal habitation with the devil and his angels. The worst part is the separation from God.

The apostle Paul said that we live, move, and exist in God (Acts 17:28). He created us. He knew us before we were born (Jer. 1:5; Ps. 139:13-16). But once judgment occurs, those who are lost will be removed from His presence—unable to go back, unable to change, unable to start over.

Those who live *for* the devil on earth will live *with* him forever in hell. The lost think that's nonsense. The faithful know it's true. “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (I Cor. 1:18).

James Hayes

May 10, 2015

Issue 212

Items of Note:

- Bill Johnson has been moved to Christian Care Center of Cheatham County.
- Addie Farmer has shown improvement lately.
- Mitch Newell has not been feeling well lately.
- We are studying Ecclesiastes on Wednesday night. Make it a priority to be with us at 7!
- Continue to pray for Faye Waller, Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, Judy York, and the Newells.

Men's Meeting Tonight At 5:00; Singing Tonight At 6:00
VBS Is June 21-25; Gospel Meeting With Coopertown Is July 26-29

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School
Read: E. Walker
Pray: L. Newell

Morning Worship
Wait on the Table: Billingsley
Serve: Demonbreum, E. Simpkins, J. Walker
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

Psalm 118:5-6
"From my distress I called
upon the Lord; the Lord
answered me and set me in
a large place. The Lord is
for me; I will not fear; what
can man do to me?"

*"We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of
the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men
are afraid of the light."*

Plato

*"The brave man is not one who does not feel
afraid, but he who conquers that fear."*

Nelson Mandela

Repentance

The New Testament states that salvation comes to those who believe the gospel (have faith) (Heb. 11:6; John 3:16), confess Jesus as Lord and Savior (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37), repent of their sins (II Peter 3:9; Acts 3:19), are baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21), and live faithfully until death (Rev. 2:10). Each command requires a certain level of courage, but repentance may be the most challenging of all the faith responses.

A biblical definition of repentance is found in II Corinthians 7:10: "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world pro-

duces death." There are three elements of repentance mentioned in this verse.

First, *repentance begins with sorrow*. James said, "Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you" (James 4:10). Spiritually, we cannot go up until we first go down. Sin should not be celebrated, excused, or ignored. We must grieve our willful disobedience.

Second, *repentance must be according to the will of God*. We need to change our lives the way the Bible proscribes. For instance, it's not repentance to say, "I need to stop doing drugs because that's illegal. So I'll just drink instead." Or, "I need to

work less so I can spend more time with my family, even if that means missing worship services and Bible studies." Repentance is not trading one bad behavior for another. It's being obedient to God's will.

Third, *authentic repentance produces salvation*. As difficult as repentance might be, it is not without reward. We will draw the lost to Christ, and we will know the joys of heaven.

"Repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

James Hayes
