

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## It's Not That Bad

**May 17, 2015**

**Issue 213**

There is a fundamental tenet in journalism: "If it bleeds, it leads." Plainly stated, the bad news goes on the front page...and we've heard a lot of bad news recently. Ebola. Riots in major cities. Women-abusing athletes. ISIS. The list goes on. We ask ourselves, "Why is everything getting SO bad?"

Well, it might not be as bad as you think it is. Sure, shows like *The Andy Griffith Show* aren't on television anymore, and God's word has been removed from public schools, but we shouldn't turn into Chicken Little and cry, "The sky is falling!"

Consider this data from

*The Reader's Digest* (June 2015): The homicide rate is declining in 67 of 88 industrialized nations, including the United States. Political scientist John Mueller noted that bee stings, deer collisions, and other mundane accidents kill more people every year than terrorism. Surveys conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics show that violence against women has been declining for decades. While genocide seems to be happening somewhere all the time, none of the current conflicts can come close to rivaling the mass killings of civilians in Japan, China, the Soviet Union, and Germany in the 1940s and 1950s.

Facebook, Twitter, and other social media websites have maximized the "If it bleeds, it leads" philosophy, with many users trying to one-up each other with salacious, attention-grabbing posts.

No matter what you may see on television, and no matter how bad things become in the world around us, remember that God is still on the throne. And nothing is stronger than Him.

"It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to the wise men and knowledge to men of understanding" (Dan. 2:21).

### Items of Note:

- Sign-up by Wednesday night on back wall for Sounds game on May 30.
- VBS meeting after worship this morning.
- Men's meeting tonight after church with Coopertown representatives to finalize Gospel Meeting plans.
- Charles Gupton, Jr., Jearmie's uncle, is in serious condition.
- Kim Waller is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

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## Happy Haven Children's Home Contribution Today Building Fund Contribution In Two Weeks

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Terry Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Trent, S. Buchanan, Baker

Pray: M. Newell

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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

II Samuel 7:22

“For this reason you are great, O Lord God; for there is none like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.”

*“Nothing is born into this world without labor.”*

*Rob Liano*

*“You are not entitled to your opinion. You are entitled to your informed opinion. You are not entitled to be ignorant.”*

*Harlan Ellison*

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## If You Give It To Them, They'll Use It

In 1936, the Social Security Administration began issuing cards to thousands of Americans through local post offices. An industrious wallet-maker, in an effort to show the versatility of his wallets, began putting sample cards in each one. But there was one unforeseen problem: The sample card had a real Social Security number on it. The number was 078-05-1120, and it was owned by the man's secretary, Hilda Schrader Whitcher. (The number has since been voided.) In just seven years, 5,755 people had fraudulently used the number. It was even being used as recently as 1977.

This Social Security number blunder reminds us that if we give something

to someone, they'll use it. That point is obvious, but we often fail to appreciate it in everyday life. Here are some examples:

(1) *Time*. Do you ever feel like your personal time is never really *your* time? Do you feel like you spend your days and nights attending to the needs (or wants) of others? If you are willing to give away your time, someone will gladly use it for their interests. Serve God sacrificially, but leave time for family and personal spiritual development.

(2) *Emotions*. Ever had your feelings hurt? Of course you have. Sometimes that heartache occurs when you give your heart to those who

don't know how to handle it. Protect your heart.

(3) *Money*. Life isn't free. It takes money to do anything. The Bible teaches us to be generous, but the Bible doesn't teach us to be an ATM for those who are irresponsible. Be judicious in your generosity. Think when you give.

(4) *Opinions*. You don't have to say everything you think. Your friends and family won't use everything you say against you in a court of law, but they'll use it against you everywhere else. Be careful when and where you express yourself.

James Hayes

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