

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Uniqueness of Scripture

May 24, 2015

Issue 214

Any discussion of the Bible must be based on this fundamental premise: God's word is not *in* the Bible; it *is* the Bible. The pages are not sacred. The ink is not holy. But the message of Scripture—the good news of Jesus—is divinely inspired.

The Bible is not structured like modern books. It has several unique characteristics.

(1) *Considering the scope of material, the Bible is brief.* The first 34 verses tell the story of the creation of the material world, plant life, animal life, and man. Genesis covers 2,500 years of history in just 50 chapters. Jesus' baptism is recorded in only five verses. Yet, a

federal directive regulating the price of cabbage contains 26,911 words.

(2) *What the Bible omits is significant.* The gospel of John covers only 20 days of Jesus' three-plus years of ministry. We know little to nothing of the lives of most of the apostles. We have no physical description of Jesus. It is clear that through inspiration of the Spirit, the Bible writers gave us what we needed to know and not a bit more (John 20:30-31).

(3) *The Bible shows remarkable restraint.* Not only does the Bible omit things that uninspired writers might include, it also describes dramatic events in un-

dramatic ways. The transfiguration. The feeding of the 5,000. Jesus' and Peter's walking on water. All are told in a straight forward, "just the facts, ma'am" sort of way. Uninspired writers would have elaborated for chapter upon chapter, trying to "wow" the reader.

The Bible is not just another book. There is nothing man can say or do to lessen the power of God's word. Man can only embrace it for his salvation or reject it for his condemnation.

"...but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ... (John 20:31).

Items of Note:

- The Gospel Meeting will begin the NIGHT of July 26 through the 29th. First two nights at Coopertown; last two nights at Pleasant View.
- Sign up on the back wall if you'd like a copy of James' book "The Voice of Faith." It is \$10.
- Sympathy extended to Jearmie Gupton on the loss of his uncle Charles Gupton.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, the Newells.

Building Fund Contribution Next Sunday VBS Is June 21-25—Classes For Children And Adults

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Garrett

Pray: Billingsley

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: JL Shelton

Serve: Demonbreum, L. Newell, J. Walker

Pray: Cartwright

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 20:7-8
“Some boast in chariots and
some in horses, but we will
boast in the name of the
Lord, our God. They have
bowed down and fallen, but
we have risen and stood
upright.”

“A great man is always willing to be little.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*“Immodest and attractive is easy. Modest and
repulsive is easy too. But modest and attractive
is an art form.”*

Douglas Wilson

Immodest Men

Schools are out. The sun is up. And many preachers are dusting off their modesty sermons. They will discuss self-esteem, swimwear, beach pictures on Facebook, the length of skirts and shorts, temptation, lust, the temple of the Holy Spirit, and making the outward appearance match the internal character. All of those issues are valid if addressed at the correct time and place, but those messages tend to be one-sided: they're primarily focused on girls and young women, as if it is impossible for a man to be immodest.

The word “modesty” means more than just avoiding an indecent appearance. The primary definition is: “the quality or state of being unas-

suming or moderate in the estimation of one's abilities.” Based on that definition, it doesn't take long for us to notice gross immodesty in our culture today being practiced by both men and women...and most of it has nothing to do with the clothes they're wearing.

Men, in particular, tend to be good at showing off. They're good at “one-upping” each other with stories of high school athletic glory, grand hunting feats, and academic achievements. Even preachers and missionaries are prone to demand credit for church growth. Immodesty is not gender-specific.

Immodesty, at its core, is selfishness, no matter how it's presented. Chris-

tians should never draw attention to themselves; they should draw attention to God (Matt. 5:16). Self-promotion and attention-seeking should never be named among believers.

Ask yourself: “Is God being glorified by the words I say? Is He glorified by the clothes I wear and how I wear them? Am I buying this product to be noticed by men or am I buying it for its usefulness? Am I telling this story because it's interesting, or am I telling it to elevate myself?” We cannot shine a light into the world if the light is directed on us.

James Hayes
