

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Why Do People Refuse To Obey The Gospel?

July 19, 2015

Issue 221

When Paul finished his sermon on Mars Hill in Athens, the people responded in three distinct ways: Some “sneered.” Some said, “We shall hear you again concerning this.” And “some men joined him and believed...” (Acts 17:32, 34). Those three responses to the gospel are still prevalent today. Some today think that Jesus was not divine and that His followers are stupid. Others say, “We talk some other time,” but they have no intention of seriously studying what Scripture teaches about salvation. And then there are those who believe the gospel and are saved.

But the question remains: Why do some people refuse

to obey the gospel? Here are four possibilities:

(1) *Stubbornness.* Obedience to the gospel requires humility. It requires an acknowledgment that one has sinned. Some just simply refuse to humble themselves.

(2) *“The church will expect me to do things.”* Some don’t want new responsibilities in their life. “If I’m not a Christian,” they think, “they won’t ask me to do anything.”

(3) *“I need answers to unanswerable questions.”* Some will ask questions of God or the Bible, but the answers fall outside the realm of human understanding. The sinner then says,

“Until I am convinced of those things, I won’t be baptized.”

(4) *“I don’t want to change.”* Repentance is not easy. Knowing this, some will attend services, give money, and do other things in the church that are comfortable, but they’ll hold on to other sinful activities. They don’t want to convert.

There are many more reasons why people refuse to obey the gospel, but they are all excuses. The sacrifice has been made. The message has been proclaimed. The decision is now in the hands of the sinner.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Thanks to all those who helped us knock doors for the Gospel Meeting. Spread the word!
- Happy Haven contribution today.
- We have a thriving Cradle Roll class now!
- Bible Bowl practice tonight at 5:00.
- Remember JW Head, Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, the Newells, Judy York, Leon Salings, and Rick Reed.

---

**Gospel Meeting Begins Next Sunday at 6:00 P.M. At Coopertown!  
We Will Have Ice Cream After Church That Night; Bring Your Favorite!**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: T. Walker

Pray: Garrett

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: Demonbreum, E. Walker, E. Simpkins

Pray: Brown

---

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

Romans 6:1-2  
“What shall we say then?  
Are we to go on sinning so  
that grace may increase?  
May it never be! How shall  
we who died to sin still live  
in it?”

*“You can believe in whatsoever you like, but the  
truth remains the truth, no matter how sweet  
the lie may taste.”*

*Michael Johnson*

*“When a man cheats on his wife, it is said that  
he is a dog. When a woman cheats on her hus-  
band, it is said that her husband is a dog.”*

*Anonymous*

---

## Divorce Doesn't...

Approximately half of all marriages today end in divorce. God is not pleased with this reality. When He designed marriage, there was no discussion of divorce: man and woman were united for life. But after man sinned, he began to violate God's will for marriage. Divorce became so widespread *among God's people* that there were specific Mosaic laws regulating the practice (Deut. 24:1-5). Under the new covenant, Jesus was clear that fornication was the only thing that could dissolve a marriage and allow someone (the innocent party) to remarry (Matt. 19:9).

But we know that many have ignored Jesus' words on this matter

and divorced their spouses for any number of reasons, simply because the state allowed them to do so. They think that divorce will solve everything that ails them. But here are some things divorce doesn't do:

(1) *Divorce doesn't change the behavior of the spouse.* Frustrated by their spouse's unwillingness to change, the husband or wife will use divorce as a motivator to get their spouse to do better. But the divorce just creates different behaviors.

(2) *“Divorce will remove my spouse from my life.”* Yes, you won't be living with that person anymore, but if you have children together, or if you live close to one another, your spouse will

continue to affect your life in some way.

(3) *Divorce doesn't delete past mistakes.* Divorce is not a giant eraser. Whatever caused the resentment between the couple in the first place will be the topic of discussion with the new spouse or the ex-spouse some day.

(4) *Divorce is not a “win” for either person.* Nobody wins in divorce. Some think that having custody of children or gaining possession of a majority of the estate means that they are the “winner” in the divorce.

We need to honor and strengthen marriages, not find reasons to end them.

James Hayes

---