

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Association, Not Participation

July 26, 2015

Issue 222

In what we call the Great Commission, Jesus commanded, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20). That command requires us to have close contact with the world. (How can we teach and baptize if we don't contact the worldly?) But God's word also states, "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them" (Eph. 5:11). Paul summarized his own con-

nection with the lost by writing, "To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some." (I Cor. 9:22).

So how do these passages fit together? To what extent should we contact the lost?

It is clear from the whole context of Scripture that we should associate with the world, but we should not participate in sinful deeds. When trying to apply this principle, some have failed to find the proper balance.

First, some believe that they should withdraw from the world as much as possible. They avoid any place and person that even *appears*

unwholesome. But if a man lives his life that way, how can he ever teach the lost about Christ?

Second, on the other end of the spectrum, some believe that if they live like everyone around them, the world will think they're "cool" and the lost will therefore respect them more. But, as Paul stated, "How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6:2).

We should associate with the world in order to shine the light of Christ and teach the gospel, but we should never endorse nor participate in sinful activity.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- They will have a freezer at Coopertown for ice cream tonight. Bring homemade, store bought, cookies, whatever!
- Anders Dickerson had outpatient surgery Wednesday. Garrett and Kristin Dickerson's address is 268 Ivy Bend Circle, Clarksville, TN 37043.
- Heather and Ellie Mangold have been out for a while with various illnesses/injuries.
- No Bible Bowl practice tonight.

Gospel Meeting Begins Tonight At 6:00 P.M. At Coopertown Elizabeth Demonbreum Was Baptized Thursday Night!

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Billingsley

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: JL Shelton

Serve: Reed, Trent, Demonbreum

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

James 5:16

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”

We are thankful to have Tim Agee as our Gospel Meeting speaker this year. Tim is a member of the Bellevue church of Christ. He works full-time for Frazier, Dean, and Howard as their IT director. He has also done IT consulting for the Gospel Advocate. Although not a “regular” preacher anywhere, Tim is a sought-after speaker for churches across Middle Tennessee. When he’s not preaching or working with technology, Tim is a marathon runner, the father of two girls, and an avid vinyl record collector.

And He Praises Her

Toward the end of a beautiful poem about a virtuous woman, King Lemuel writes, “Her children rise up and bless her; her husband also, and he praises her, saying, ‘Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all’” (Prov. 31:28).

Husbands, when was the last time you complimented your wife? I don’t mean just being nice to her. I’m not talking about a romantic comment or gesture. I mean when was the last time you looked at your wife and complimented her? Your wife is a human being, therefore she prefers compliments over criticism. Since you married her, I assume there are many glowing things you *could* say about her, but often do you do it?

In a recent edition of *Christian Woman* magazine, an anonymous writer lamented the fact that in approximately four decades of marriage her husband had *never* complimented her. He probably did many nice things for her. I’m sure he is a faithful man. But he never gave a compliment, and it broke his wife’s heart.

Most would consider giving compliments a minor issue within a marriage. After all, faith, children, finances, sexual faithfulness, and the relationship with in-laws are the big issues, right? Yes, but couples who are struggling in their marriage don’t give compliments—sometimes it’s the first symptom of a diseased mar-

riage. When the compliments stop, the positive communication stops. When the compliments stop, the second-guessing begins. When the compliments stop, she might drift toward a man who is liberal with compliments.

So, men. Some time today, tomorrow, and every day after that, compliment your wife. Point out something about her motherhood, womanhood, or character that inspire you and make your life better. She’ll feel like \$1,000,000, and you’ll be reminded why you fell in love with her.

James Hayes
