

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Prison Of Addiction

September 13, 2015

Issue 229

On September 7, Edsel Bradford approach the pharmacist at the Brainerd Walmart near Chattanooga and offered him \$100 for 10 hydrocodone pills. Bradford did not have a prescription, so the offer was just a bribe. The pharmacist immediately rejected the bribe, but Bradford was not satisfied. He began harassing, cursing, and pushing shoppers, so the manager called police. Bradford would not yield to the officers' demands, and he tried to push his way past them. He was arrested. What's interesting about this arrest is that Bradford is not a typical criminal—he was 90 years old.

Clearly, Bradford is ad-

dicted to hydrocodone, and his addiction is controlling his life. He is not alone. Prescription medication, tobacco (nicotine), alcohol, and other illicit drugs are being used and misused at alarming rates from coast to coast. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA), drug use costs Americans \$700 billion a year in crime, lost work, and health care expenses. Drugs are devastating to the body because they alter fundamental brain activities. The NIDA notes: "Some drugs (e.g. marijuana and heroin) have a similar structure to chemical messengers called neurotransmitters, which are naturally produced by the

brain. This similarity allows the drugs to 'fool' the brain's receptors and activate nerve cells to send abnormal messages." In other words, drugs change the way you think.

God does not want us to intentionally alter our thinking by contaminating our brains with chemicals. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and we should glorify God in how we use them (I Cor. 6:19-20). Strive to live a healthy life by avoiding any drug that is not prescribed by a doctor. If you feel you are addicted to the medication, seek help immediately.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Congratulations to Justin and Susan Newell on the birth of their daughter, Lori Kate Newell, weighing 8 pounds.
- A sign up sheet for preparing food for Bill Johnson and the Garretts is on the back wall.
- Remember JW Head, Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Rick Reed, David Johnson, and the Newells in your prayers.

Than You To All Those Who Participated In Bible Bowl Tonight Is Our Monthly Singing At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: E. Simpkins, Gupton, Trent

Pray: Terry Walker

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 Corinthians 10:17-18
"But he who boasts is to
boast in the Lord. For it is not
he who commends himself
that is approved, but he
whom the Lord commends."

*"Tears shed for another person are not a sign of
weakness. It is a sign of a pure heart."*

Jose Harris

*"Listen to the mustn'ts, child. Listen to the
don'ts. Listen to the shouldn'ts, the impossibles,
the won'ts. Listen to the never haves, then listen
close to me...Anything can happen child. Any-
thing can be."*

Shel Silverstein

One Of These Days

Mark Twain said, "Never put off till tomorrow what may be done day after tomorrow just as well." That funny spin on the famous quote on procrastination is not just funny; it's a mantra for many people. It is easy to push important matters farther down the road, hoping that those things will simply take care of themselves. But they don't. Procrastination creates many problems:

(1). *Procrastination increases worry.* Jesus asked this rhetorical question: "And who of you by being worried can add a single hour to his life?" (Matt. 6:27). Worry paralyzes us. It weighs us down. Procrastination does not decrease our worries; it fuels them.

(2). *Procrastination negatively affects one's character.* If an employee is always hurriedly finishing assignments at the last minute, he won't be trusted with larger assignments. If a student fails to turn in homework on time, his grade will suffer. Christians should be known as people who fulfill their responsibilities within the expected timeframe. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might..." (Eccl. 9:10).

(3). *Procrastination produces inferior results.* In the church, if a Sunday School teacher plans his/her class at midnight on Sunday morning, the class will be unproductive. If a man waits till his name is called to find a

passage to read in front of the congregation, he won't read the passage well and the church will not be blessed. No matter what happens in church life, every member must be diligent in performing their roles well. Last minute preparation will slow the growth of the church.

The worst instance of procrastination is when one keeps putting off obedience to the gospel. We do not have an endless number of days on earth. We do not know what tomorrow will present or even if there will be a tomorrow. Every day that goes by is another day in which one says "No!" to salvation. Why keep saying, "No!?" Say, "Yes" to the Lord today.

James Hayes
