

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Worship Critic

September 27, 2015

Issue 231

The following was written by Neal Pollard, a faithful preacher for the Bear Valley church of Christ in Colorado. Read more at preacherpollard.wordpress.com.

I've known individuals whose sole purpose in the assemblies has seemed to be to critique those who lead the worship or show up to engage in it, from their appearance to their aptitude. While we certainly need to avoid having someone blatantly engaging in sin and error (that's an article for a different occasion), if that is one extreme then hypercriticism of the worship and worshipper can be another. If you or someone you love is tempted to play this deflating part, consider the following.

*It's **unwarranted**. Who earns the right to be the official analyst of the worship? How does one properly and fruitfully engage himself and herself in John 4:24 worship while assuming this presumptuous activity? The Bible nowhere portrays such a one in a positive light. One critic of another's worship we do read about is unflatteringly presented and unfavorably analyzed by God in Luke 18:9-14. We should ask why we feel it necessary that we grade and rate others present with us before the Great I Am.*

*It's **unscriptural**. This can be the case in many possible ways. First, if we gossip or speak about someone rather than addressing it with them, that's wrong (1 Pet. 2:1; Mat.*

18:15). Second, if our tone is biting, sarcastic, and unloving, that's wrong (2 Tim. 2:24; Eph. 4:15). Third, if in being critical we ourselves are not properly engaged in worship, that's wrong (John 4:24).

*It's **unwise**. It is so easy to undermine and squander one's own influence who reduces himself or herself to nitpicking others in the assemblies. It can cause others to lose respect for us and even seek to avoid us. This is especially important to remember if, in a close and final analysis, what we criticize does not rise to the level of meriting such criticism.*

May we all endeavor to do only one thing in worship: worship God!

Items of Note:

- Bill Johnson had a rough week. Keep him in your prayers.
- Thank you to all those who prepared food last week for the fellowship.
- Remember Avery Shipman of the Stroudsville church. He attempted suicide two weeks ago.
- Mitch Newell had a reaction to medication this week, but is improving.
- Paula Lee began stem cell treatment this week.

There Are Calendars Available On The Front Row
Pray For Our Missionaries—John Kachelman and Jim Waldron

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Billingsley

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

Serve: Trent, Hovis, 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 139:13-14
“For You formed me in my
inward parts; You wove me
in my mother’s womb. I will
give thanks to You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully
made...”

*“That which does not kill us ...makes us
stronger.”*

Friedrich Nietzsche

*“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an
attribute of the strong.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

Humility

Lawrence Peter Berra, known to the world as Yogi Berra, died this week at the age of 90. A native of St. Louis, Berra dropped out of school in the 8th grade. He served his country during WWII, surviving the invasion of Normandy (D-Day) as a gunner’s mate. Shortly after the war, he signed a baseball contract with the New York Yankees for \$90 a month. He went on to play 18 seasons for the Yankees and became a legend of the game. He won 10 World Series titles (a record), played in 15 All-Star games, and was voted MVP three times. But most people know Berra for his “Yogi-isms,” quirky phrases that seem contradictory but are actually profound. He said, “It ain’t over

till it’s over,” and, “That restaurant is too crowded, so nobody goes there anymore.”

There was a constant theme that pervaded the eulogies of Berra this week—his friends and teammates constantly used the word “humble” to describe him. He rarely talked about his baseball career, and he never talked about his war record. He let his accomplishments speak for themselves. Jason Gay of the *Wall Street Journal* wrote, “Humility defined his life. Yogi Berra was not a pretentious man. He didn’t view his life as extraordinary, which only makes it more so.”

Our look-at-me culture could use more Yogi Berras—men and women

who go about their work with grace and humility, leaving the praises and critiques to others. The Bible notes several people whose character was defined by humility. Moses was called the most humble man on earth (Num. 12:3). Jesus said John the Baptist was the greatest man born of a woman because he sacrificed his life for Christ (Matt. 11:11). A woman named Tabitha was revered among her people as a woman who humbly served her neighbors (Acts 9:39).

Do not be someone who is known for self-promotion; be someone who is known for self-sacrifice.

James Hayes
