

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Spiritually Objective

November 22, 2015

Issue 239

Did you know that someone can be biased and objective at the same time? Those words don't mean the same thing. A biased person simply prefers one thing over another. An objective person goes where the facts take him. So, I can be a fan (biased) toward a football team, but if the team goes 0-10, I must accept the fact that my team isn't good; therefore, I am being both biased and objective.

The apostle Matthew demonstrated his objectivity when he recorded his first experience with Jesus in Matthew 9:9-13. Jesus commanded Matthew to follow Him, and Matthew immediately left his tax collecting

booth and followed Jesus. Soon afterwards, Jesus was eating in Matthew's house with His disciples and others who the Jews considered "sinners." When the crowd challenged Jesus' associations, Jesus said: "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick" (v. 12).

Notice that Jesus and the crowd agreed on one thing: The people in that house were sick sinners. And notice something else: Matthew didn't defend himself. He didn't interrupt Jesus and say, "Wait a minute! You come into my house and say I am a sinner? I've been given that label my whole adult life just be-

cause I collect taxes for the Romans. How dare you judge me!" Matthew said nothing of the sort. Why? Because when Jesus says you're a sinner, you're a sinner. You can accept that objective truth, or you can deny the obvious.

We're all biased. As someone said, "We judge others by their actions; but we judge ourselves by our intentions." We see the good that we do, while often ignoring our sins. But we all need to be spiritually objective. We need to confess our sins, repent of them, and become acquainted with God's mercy and grace.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- We will continue our study of the Ten Commandments tonight when we study, "You shall not take the name of the lord your God in vain."
- We will study Thanksgiving Wednesday night, interrupting our study of the life of Christ.
- JW Head had outpatient surgery Wednesday.
- Sympathy extended to Ricky Mayo on the loss of his brother, Harold.

Building Fund Contribution Next Sunday Put Items For The Nursing Home On The Front Pew

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: W. Hovis

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: T. Walker, Reed, Newell

Pray: Garrett

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

Psalms 63:3-4
"Because Your
lovingkindness is better than
life, My lips will praise You.
So I will bless You as long as
I live; I will lift up my hands
in Your name."

"Thanks giving is not some formulaic action based on a tedious ledger that neatly tallies everything I have received so I can determine if being thankful is warranted or not. Rather, it's appreciating the fact that I have already received the privilege of living life which in and of itself will fill the whole of my ledger for the whole of my life."

Craig Lounsbrough

Thanksgivings

On October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation, declaring the last Thursday of November a national holiday. Lincoln knew he was blessed, even though his life was far from easy. His mother died when he was a child, two of his children died before he issued the proclamation, and the nation was at war with itself. Nonetheless, Lincoln, persuaded by others, felt that even during times of stress, thanksgivings should be expressed. Here is an excerpt from that proclamation:

"[Blessings] are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It is seemed to me fit

and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I commend to them that while offering up the aspirations justly due Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perseverance and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged..."

It is interesting that the president of the United States in 1863 had no reservation about speaking openly of God in a national address. Today, in an era when school teachers are not allowed to pray with like-minded students, such boldness is inspiring. Also, Lincoln assumed that thanks would be given to God. For those who deny the existence of God in our culture, to whom or to what do they give thanks? Nature? Fate? Chance?

Thanksgiving only makes sense to those who know they have been given every good and perfect gift from the eternal Creator.

James Hayes
