

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Complaints Go Up

December 20, 2015

Issue 243

In the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, Captain John Miller leads a band of Army Rangers behind enemy lines to rescue the only surviving son of the Ryan family—James Ryan’s three brothers were killed in action. In one scene, as the men were marching across an open field, a Ranger asked Captain Miller why the Army would give so much attention to just one man. Captain Miller had no comment on the matter. When pressed for one, he said, “There’s a chain of command. Gripes go up. Always up. You gripe to me. I gripe to my superior office, and so on, so on, and so on. I don’t gripe to you. I don’t gripe in front of you.

You should know that as a Ranger.”

It’s fine to have a complaint. It’s fine to present your solution for a problem. But there’s a way to do it—a way that is productive instead of destructive. Here are some destructive ways of complaining:

- (1). *Build an army of complainers.* Misery loves company. So, when we have a legitimate (or illegitimate) complaint, it’s easy to express our issues with anybody and everybody, hoping that we’ll be joined by a large group of sympathizers.
- (2). *Gossip.* It is not a sin to talk about someone—everybody talks about everybody. It’s sinful, however,

when we intentionally diffuse half-truths and negative information about someone in an effort to damage someone’s character.

- (3). *Never express your complaint to the right person.* Many people are good at expressing what’s on their minds, but they always express it to the wrong person. For example, someone might complain to an elder’s wife about something her husband did.

If you have a complaint, respect the other person enough to go to him/her directly. And be careful not to complain “down”—to children, employees, etc.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Kyle Reed will have outpatient eye surgery on Tuesday.
- Paula Lee’s health has declined lately.
- Thanks to Doug for preparing the fruit baskets.
- Resolve this in 2016 to attend all of our worship services and Bible studies. Setting the times as a priority will encourage you, increase your knowledge of Scripture, and help you grow closer to God.

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## Remember To Pick Up Your Christmas Cards We Continue Our Study Of The Ten Commandments Tonight

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Walker

Pray: JL Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Baker

Serve: Reed, L. Newell, Demonbreum

Pray: M. Newell

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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

*“How many observe Christ’s birthday! How  
few, His precepts!”*

*Benjamin Franklin*

*“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world,  
and behold, everything is softer and more beau-  
tiful.”*

*Norman Vincent Peale*

Psalm 119:10  
“With all my heart I have  
sought you; do not let me  
wander from Your  
commandments.”

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## Caring Less

Do you care too much? Do you take everything personally? Do you try to fix every problem you see? Do you wonder why people say what they say? Are you constantly questioning other’s motives and second-guessing their decisions? It’s exhausting, isn’t it? Maybe it’s time to retire from over-caring. Maybe you’ve spent too many years trying to police your family, your school, your fellow employees, your church, and your spouse. Maybe it’s time to say, “I couldn’t care less!” and mean it.

The apostle Paul cared about so many things. After listing all of the physical trials he had faced as a missionary, he stated, “Apart from such external things, there is the daily

pressure on me of concern for all the churches” (II Cor. 11:28). Paul’s work was physically and emotionally exhausting. But that was okay because he knew the good that his work was producing.

There was a time, however, when Paul essentially said, “I don’t care.” In Philippians 1, he stated that there were brethren who gained strength from his imprisonment and endeavored to preach more. He went on to note that some of those preachers were preaching Christ “from envy and strife...out of selfish ambition” (1:15,17). How did Paul react? Did he set out to slander those men? Did he denounce them as false teachers? No. He said, “What then?

Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this, I rejoice” (1:18).

Paul didn’t have time to judge intentions and motives. He was simply a fruit inspector. As long as those men were preaching the correct doctrine, He didn’t care what other motivations they might’ve had. He let God deal with the heart (I Sam. 16:7).

We don’t need to be careless, but sometimes it’s good to care less. We need to serve God above all else and not get distracted by other’s shortcomings.

James Hayes

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