

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Do You Care?

Some say it happened. Others say it's just an urban legend. Either way, his point was still profound. Here's the story:

A man stood to speak in front of thousands of Christians at a convention. He said, "There are billions of people in the world. Only a small fraction of them are Christians, which means an overwhelming majority of the people on earth are going to hell." He paused, surveyed the room, and continued. "And none of you give a _____ (he cussed)." Immediately there was a rumbling in the audience. Faces turned red. People were whispering to one another. The speaker could hear gasping through-

out the crowd. Then he concluded by saying, "Here's the problem. When I said that most of the world is going to hell, you didn't flinch. It didn't bother you at all. You didn't care. But when I cussed, you were shocked. *That's* the part that got your attention. What is wrong with you?"

It is easy for us to get so focused on our personal morality that we lose sight of our ultimate goal of evangelism. Jesus said that He came to this earth to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He charged us to make disciples of all the world by baptizing them and teaching them to ob-

serve all of His commandments (Matt. 28:18-20). When churches of Christ grew rapidly in the first half of the 20th century in America, personal evangelism by the people in the pews was a defining characteristic of the churches.

To be clear: Personal morality is not insignificant, and it shouldn't be ignored as we seek to save the world. This is not an either/or situation; it's a both/and situation. We should be sure that our light is shining brightly as we evangelize. But we should never forget that the gospel is not a secret.

James Hayes

January 17, 2016

Issue 246

Items of Note:

- Donnie and Kristine Garrett have been ill lately.
- Patricia Stroud's daughter-in-law, Sheila, is in ICU at Centennial with a possible aneurysm.
- We are studying the life of Christ on Wednesday night.
- Remember in your prayers...Rick Reed, Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, the Newells, Paula Lee, David Johnson, and all of our missionaries.

A.M. Sermon: How To Please God P.M. Sermon: "You Shall Not Steal"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: Demonbreum, L. Newell, Hovis

Pray: S. Buchanan

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

*“I have not failed. I have just found 10,000 ways
that won’t work.”*

Thomas Edison

*“I can’t give you a sure-fire formula for success,
but I can give you a formula for failure: try to
please everybody all the time.”*

Herbert Bayard Swope

Romans 10:1
“Brethren, my heart’s desire
and my prayer to God for
them is for their salvation.”

What Do I Do When I Don’t Have The Answers?

When babies are born, they are given little hats, warm blankets, proud mothers, and life-sustaining milk. But they aren’t given a book that contains the answers to all life’s questions. Yes, we have the Bible. But when man creates new temptations and celebrates old vices, man is often scrambling to find an explanation for why he is experiencing so many trials. If you’ve ever stayed up at night wondering what to do next, try these things:

(1). *Trust what you do know.* Speculating is exhausting. Guessing is tiresome. When things go south, remember that God’s love never changes, His word never changes, and His heaven never changes...even

when life is incredibly confusing (Rom. 8:37-39).

(2). *Remember what happened in the past.* Remember when God blessed your life. Remember when He answered your prayers for healing. Remember when He blessed you with a good family and a faithful church. During the dark hours, it can seem like God has never been there for us. But He always has.

(3). *Find some perspective.* Over one billion people on earth do not have electricity. A majority of the world lives in abject poverty. Your problems are your problems, and they are not insignificant. Your feelings matter. But sometimes we need to take a

step back and see that things could be *much* worse.

(4). *Seek good counsel.* We live in a world of self-proclaimed experts. The Internet has created them. But even in a sea of nonsense there are a few safe harbors of valuable counseling. There are real experts in the world who have either already gone through what you’re struggling with, or they have studied the situation to an extent that their advice is valuable. And remember, if the advice is not faith-based, it ultimately will harm your soul. Trust faithful people.

James Hayes
