

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

A Personal Faith

January 24, 2016

Issue 247

Leslie Weatherford invited his 70-year-old friend to a production of Handel's *Messiah* at Royal Albert Hall in London. Both were mesmerized by the legendary oratorio as it dramatically depicted the life of Christ. When the famous Hallelujah Chorus began, both men rose to their feet, as is the custom.

Weatherford noticed that his friend began crying when the chorus sang "King of kings, and Lord of lords!" When *Messiah* ended, the friend looked at Weatherford and said, "That was my Savior they were singing about."

Weatherford later wrote, "I shall never forget the meaning he put into that word

'my.'"

Faith is personal; it's not a group effort. We are encouraged by the church, taught by preachers, molded by parents, and strengthened by friends. But you will stand alone before God one day. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that *each one* may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what *he* has done, whether good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10).

Martin Luther said, "The heart of religion is in its personal pronoun." It is never boastful to say, "Jesus is my Savior." After all, He did come to this earth to

save you. If you were the only person on earth, Jesus would have still come to this earth and died on the cross. He died for *you*.

Here is an exercise to do to help you remember just how personal Jesus' sacrifice was: When you read John 3:16, replace the phrase "the world" with your name, then read the verse again. "The world" may sound impersonal since there are over seven billion people in the world. But "the world" includes you, and that's what John 3:16 is all about.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- David Johnson, James' friend, is in ICU in Huntsville, dealing with complications from cancer treatment.
- We are studying the life of Christ on Wednesday night.
- We will continue our study of the Ten Commandments next Sunday night.
- Continue to pray for Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, JW Head, Paula Lee, our missionaries, and those affected by the blizzard in the east.

A.M. Sermon: Things That Will Not Be At Judgment No Service Tonight—Stay Safe!

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Terry Walker

Pray: JL Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: E. Simpkins, Reed, Demonbreum

Pray: M. Newell

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

“Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else.”

Charles Spurgeon

Ephesians 5:3
“But immorality or any purity or greed must not be named among you, as is proper among saints.”

“Isn’t it a comfort to worship a God we cannot exaggerate?”

Francis Chan

Trust God

Many members of a congregation were once challenging their preacher’s absolute trust in Scripture. They said that Scripture must only be trusted when a passage can be easily explained by science. The discussions had gone on for several weeks. Then one day a member of the congregation passed away, and the church was devastated. The preacher spent the entire week trying to arrange a sermon that was sensitive to the family yet challenging for the surviving members. An idea came to mind, and it became his most direct—and shortest—sermon he ever preached.

He stood behind the pulpit and said: “Friends and brethren, we are

mourning today. Our hearts are heavy. We have many questions and few answers. So we ask, ‘Where do we go for answers at a time like this?’ Many of you have suggested for quite some time that we must rely on science at every turn—that science can explain everything. Today, I concede.” The preacher closed his Bible and placed it on a table behind him. He then held up a science textbook and continued.

“Where in this book do we find consolation when we’re grieving? On which page is the answer to what happens when we die? Which chapter explains the afterlife? What scientific formula teaches us how to rejoice with those who rejoice and

weep with those who weep? Science cannot answer those questions. The Bible was not written as a science textbook. It is also not a history textbook, an economics textbook, or a business textbook. It is God’s communication to man. It teaches us about what’s most important—the salvation of our souls. Trust in man, and you will perish. Trust in God, and you will live.” Then the preacher sat down.

Jesus knew that it would take incredible faith to believe in Him after He ascended to heaven. That’s why He said, “Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed” (John 20:29).

James Hayes
