

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Happiness

January 31, 2016

Issue 248

Are you happy? If so, how do you define happiness? Do you consider yourself happy just because you aren't sad today? Do you have to be laughing to be happy? Are you happy only when you receive an unexpected gift? Is your happiness directly related to how much money you have at the end of the month? Happiness is hard to define. Its meaning seems to vary from person to person. Alison Krauss sang, "You can't always trust happiness."

Christians are often quick to say that Jesus never promised that if we submitted our lives to Him that we'd live in a constant state of happiness. He taught us

to deny ourselves and take up our cross. He said that we would encounter ravenous wolves in the world. He said we would be confronted with false teachers, hypocrites, liars, and heretics. Following the path of righteousness is not a walk in the park.

While it is true that being in the world and not of the world is a challenging endeavor, Jesus did not expect His church to live their lives in misery. The abundant life is found in Jesus (John 10:10). When we follow His commands, we experience a contentment and peace that Paul described as "joy"—and it is the best feeling in the world.

In the "Book of Joy" (Philippians), Paul made a profound statement—"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (4:13). This verse is not about personal achievement, and it's not about Jesus granting us supernatural ability. In context, Paul is discussing contentment. No matter what happens in life, Jesus will give us the strength we need to carry on. He never leaves us. When we understand that, we understand happiness.

"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness" (Psalm 37:3).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- David Johnson, James' friend, passed away Thursday afternoon. The funeral was yesterday
 - We are studying the life of Christ on Wednesday night.
 - We will continue our study of the Ten Commandments tonight with "You Shall Not Bear False Witness."
 - Continue to pray for Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, Paula Lee, JW Head, and Jack Oden—Freddie's brother-in-law.
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Building Fund Contribution Today! Hillcrest Nursing Home Worship Next Week

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, E. 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

Romans 8:6-7

“For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God...”

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”

Albert Einstein

“Incredible change happens in your life when you decide to take control of what you have the power over instead of craving control over what you don’t.”

Steve Maraboli

Mentors

Mentor: “An experienced and trusted advisor.”

Whether we call them mentors or not, we all have people in our lives who have guided us professionally, financially, and most importantly, spiritually. We call some mentors “heroes.” We call others “friends.” Either way, “the wheel” got invented a long time ago; none of us invented it. We need experienced and trusted advisors to show us the way.

Here are the people in my life who have affected me the most spiritually:

(1). *My parents.* John and Dianne Hayes married each other because they were both members of the

church, they were committed to the same lifestyle, and they loved each other. That model was passed on to their three sons. My Dad was my preacher for the first 8 years of my life, and Mom taught us the Bible at home. They were the foundation.

(2). *Buck Dozier, Steve Flatt, and Marlin Connelly.* These three men were influential to me in my teens and 20s at Madison church of Christ and at Lipscomb. Dozier and Flatt taught me to be organized, professional, and prepared—three areas in which I need constant improvement. Their skill in a variety of areas was always impressive. Dr. Connelly taught the only sermon preparation class I ever took at Lipscomb, and he

recommended me for my first job. His commitment to the craft of preaching was second to none.

(3). *Fellow preachers.* I have leaned on my preacher friends for 16 years because they are like duct tape—good for whatever needs fixing. When I need encouragement, they’re there. When I need to learn more about preaching, they teach me. When I just need a listening ear, they are always willing to help.

Make a list of your mentors. It will help you realize that you haven’t gone through life alone. And you’ll be supremely thankful.

James Hayes
