

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Don't Bury Them Until They're Dead

February 28, 2016

Issue 251

In 1936, 19-year-old Frenchman Angelo Hays was driving his new motorcycle through his small hometown, against the objections of his parents. Within a few miles of his house, Hays lost control of the motorcycle and crashed into a brick wall. Hays was pronounced dead at the scene. He was buried a few days later and his father filed a life insurance claim. The life insurance company got suspicious when they realized that Hays' father had taken out the \$200,000 policy just a few weeks before the accident. Investigators had no other choice but request that Angelo Hays' body be exhumed so they could determine

whether or not the body had injuries not consistent with a crash. Five days after the crash, and two days after Hays was buried, His body was taken to the local medical examiner's office. As soon as the medical examiner touched Hays' body, he knew the full story. Hays wasn't murdered. As a matter of fact, Hays didn't even die in the crash. He was alive. His body was warm and his breathing was shallow. The crash had put Hays into a deep coma. Since he was not embalmed, Hays was able to survive two days buried alive.

We should be careful not to bury others before they're dead. It is easy to

write off the alcoholics, the fornicators, and the delinquents. It doesn't take much effort to ignore the beggars and backstabbers. But as long as there is breath in our bodies, anyone can change and turn to the Lord. The apostle Paul listed many sins that had been committed by Christians in Corinth. But he also recognized that those Christians had repented of their sins. "Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- The Hovis family has been sick this week.
- Sympathy is extended to Dana Newell on the loss of her aunt, Betty Farmer. Funeral was Thursday.
- Hannah Marlin, the daughter of Linda Demonbreum's boss, is losing her vision.
- Pray for Paula Lee, JW Head, Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, Rick Reed, our elections, and those affected by civil war and terrorism.

A.M. Sermon: "Could Jesus Trust You With His Identity?"

P.M. Sermon: "Barnabas: A Friend Who Lifts My Spirits"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: J.L. Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: Demonbreum, Trent, J. Walker

Pray: Brown

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 John 4:1

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

“All that are in hell, choose it. Without that self-choice, there could be no hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened.”

C.S. Lewis

“Hell is paved with good intentions.”

Samuel Johnson

Prejudice

We know Gandhi as the Hindu leader of the Indian nationalist movement who led a non-violent revolt against British colonization in the early 20th century. But many people do not know that Gandhi came close to becoming a Christian. In his autobiography, Gandhi retells the time that he was studying world religions and comparing them to the Indian caste system, where people were divided based on purely socio-economic grounds. As he studied Christianity, he realized that Christianity represented equality for men and women, and it ignored social biases. He decided to attend a nearby church to see how Christianity was practiced. When he entered

the church house, the ushers immediately recognized him as Hindu and escorted him out of the building. Gandhi was led to only one conclusion: “If Christians have caste differences also, I might as well remain Hindu.”

The book of James, which has been called “The Christian Constitution,” addresses prejudice. James wrote: “If a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ and you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there, or sit down by my foot-

stool,’ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?” (James 2:2-4).

We should never be in the habit of drawing lines where Jesus doesn’t draw them. Christians cannot view the church assemblies as places where certain qualifications must be met. The church is not a country club, a secret society, or a fraternal order. If someone is willing to come to the Lord by worshiping with believers, we should not make them feel like they made a bad decision. They should feel welcomed.

James Hayes
