

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Rejecting Revenge

March 20, 2016

Issue 255

The Bible teaches us how to deal with people who hurt us, but we often ignore the divine instructions. The typical response is this: Find a way to get back at that person through gossip, slander, or personal injury. If those methods don't satisfy us, we choose bitterness, which, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "...is a poison pill that you swallow, hoping that it kills the other person." God's formula for responding to evil is the opposite our instinctive formula. Consider Romans 12:17-21. Paul wrote...

(1). *Don't do the bad thing that was done to you (v. 17).* You can't get ahead by trying to get even. If you don't

like what was done to you, don't respond in kind.

(2). *Do your best to live at peace with everybody (v. 18).* Stop trying to find ways not to like somebody. Don't create problems or borrow someone else's.

(3). *Don't seek revenge; that's God's business (v. 19).* You might think that if you don't punish the person who hurt you that they'll "get away with it." No, they won't. God is watching. Your enemy's relationship with Him is far more important than your enemy's relationship with you.

(4). *Doing good to your enemy will shame him (v. 20).* Our culture has done everything in its power to remove

shame from society. Everything is fine. Nothing is bad. Nothing is wrong. By serving your enemy, you will be taking the high road, you'll be acting like Jesus, and you'll shame that person for his sins, which is often an effective way to get him to stop doing it.

(5). *Good beats evil every time (v. 21).* Historical heroes are the ones who defended noble causes in the face of great evil. When we succumb to the evil around us, we lose the respect of our peers and our godly influence is weakened.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Robert Justise is now in rehab after his recent hospital stay.
- Jeff Baker's sister's mother-in-law, Miriam Hall, died suddenly Wednesday afternoon.
- Thanks to all those who participated in our Easter Egg Hunt yesterday.
- John Hayes had successful eyelid surgery Wednesday.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Paula Lee, and Forrest West.

Happy Haven Contribution Today

Use Envelope Or Mark Your Check For Happy Haven Contribution

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: Demonbreum, L. Newell, Terry Walker

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

Colossians 1:28
“We proclaim Him,
admonishing every man and
teaching every man with all
wisdom, so that we may
present every man complete
in Christ.”

*Bible Bowl This Year Will Cover The Following
Chapters From Leviticus: 6-11, 17, 19, 23-27.*

*“No one can make you feel inferior without
your consent.”*

Eleanor Roosevelt

*“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wis-
dom.”*

Aristotle

Why Sunday Night And Wednesday Night?

“If I worshipped on Sunday morn-
ing, why should I come back and do
it again on Sunday night?”

“What’s the point of meeting on
Wednesday night? Our family sched-
ule is too busy for that.”

“Being a Christian isn’t about fol-
lowing a checklist of rituals. Sunday
nights and Wednesday nights are
just a way to shame people who
aren’t there.”

I’ve heard these types of comments
for years regarding Sunday night and
Wednesday night worship services
and Bible studies. And I have also
heard some pharisaical answers to
those questions. We need to find
balance. Here are some principles to

think about when it comes to these
issues:

(1). *The Sunday night services are practi-
cal.* Every congregation in every gen-
eration must find the best time to
meet on Sunday for worship. No
matter what time is chosen, there
will be some members who will not
be able to attend that service due to
illness, shift work, travel, etc. Having
a Sunday night service provides an
opportunity for those who missed
the earlier service to worship.

(2). *Sunday night and Wednesday night
services are not prohibitive.* If a Chris-
tian attended every service of the
church throughout the week, he/she
would only be in worship or Bible

study for four hours. The average
person is awake 16 hours a day.
That’s 112 hours a week. The
church asks you to use just four of
those hours in fellowship.

(3). *A faithful Christian should want to
worship as much as possible.* Church
attendance is not the ultimate test of
faith. Jesus pointed to our obedience
to the gospel and our treatment of
the less fortunate as key signs of
faith (Matt. 25:34-35; 28:19). But
worship should be the daily desire of
the faithful. We should live in a
constant state of thanksgiving before
God. Finding a way to avoid worship
runs counter to the Christian experi-
ence.

James Hayes
