

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Sometimes, Always, Never

March 27, 2016

Issue 256

One summer in high school I worked at Kuppenheimer men's store in Nashville. It was the early 1990s, and three-button suits were becoming more fashionable. We sold a lot of them, but the customers always had the same question: "Which buttons do I button if I am standing?" The rule of thumb was "sometimes, always, never"—you should button the top button sometimes, the middle button always, and never button the lowest button.

In Scripture we see the same principle applied to moral living. There are things we should do sometimes, other things we should always do, and some

activities should never be done. For instance...

(1). *Sometimes we should...* play. Sometimes we should eat. Sometimes we should take vacations. But we shouldn't overdo these activities. They should be done in moderation. Proverbs 25:16: "Have you found honey? Eat only what you need, that you not have it in excess and vomit it." Proverbs 13:4: "The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat."

(2). *We should always...* pray (I Thess. 5:17; Phil. 4:6). We should worship every time there is an opportunity (Heb. 9:23-25). We should always resist the

devil (James 4:7) and bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2). These are just a few of the things we should always do by faith.

(3). *We should never...* lie (Prov. 12:22). We should never support unrighteousness (I Cor. 13:6) nor cause someone to stumble in their faith (Matt. 18:6). We should never compromise our faith (Jude 3) nor abide false teachers (I John 4:1-4).

The Greek poet Hesiod once wrote, "Observe due measure: moderation is best in all things." That philosophy is followed by many worldly people, but it is not consistent with Scripture.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Due to Spring Break at many schools, several of our members were out last week.
- Congratulations to Janna Simpkins and Jesse Menix on their marriage yesterday.
- Debbie Simpkins was sick this week, but was better for the wedding.
- Remember those injured in the Brussels bombing.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Paula Lee.

A.M. Sermon: "I Know My Savior Lives"  
P.M. Sermon: "How Long Does It Take To Die?"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School  
Read: J. Buchanan  
Pray: JL Shelton

Morning Worship  
Wait on the Table: Gupton  
Serve: Demonbreum, E. Walker, Cartwright  
Pray: T. Walker

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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 8:11

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

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

*“Optimism hopes for the best without any guarantee of its arriving and is often no more than whistling in the dark. Christian hope, by contrast, is faith looking ahead to the fulfillment of the promises of God.”*

*J.I. Packer*

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## Same Question, Different Answers

According to Google Maps, it is exactly 175.5 miles from Nashville to Louisville. So, if a man stopped at a gas station in Nashville and asked the clerk how long it would take him to get to Louisville, the clerk would say, “About 2 hours and 40 minutes.” But let’s say that same man stops in Bowling Green for lunch and asks the cashier how long it would take to get to Louisville. He/She would say, “About an hour and 50 minutes.” They would hospitalize the traveler if he yelled, “In Nashville they said it was 2 hours and 40 minutes to Louisville, now you’re saying it’s an hour and 50 minutes! I asked the same question, but I got two different answers!”

Such is the same when we study the Bible. The Bible is not written as numbered creed book, with a checklist of things we should do to be saved. The New Testament offers four perspectives on the life of Christ called gospels, one history book, a series of epistles, and one book of prophecy. Whether it was a scene from the life of Christ or a letter addressing a particular issue in an epistle, the divinely inspired writers are only relating what needs to be stated in those particular contexts. So, if Paul is writing about faith, he might not mention baptism. If Peter is writing about baptism, he might not mention confession. If we read of Jesus command-

ing repentance, He isn’t discussing faith. And so on.

So there may be a faithful, God-fearing person who asks, “What must I do to be saved?” and if he/she hasn’t been baptized, the answer is, “Repent and be baptized...” (Acts 2:38). Another person who has been baptized but is not living faithfully might ask the same question, but get a different answer. He would be told to “[B]e faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2:10).

With Scripture, sometimes the same question gets different answers.

James Hayes

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