

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Character Counts

April 3, 2016

Issue 257

On March 20, 1925, Frederick Lewis Donaldson delivered a sermon at Westminster Abbey in London. In it, he said: "The seven social sins are: wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; commerce without morality; science without humanity; worship without sacrifice; and politics without principle." It is no coincidence that our American culture is declining so rapidly, considering that the common man rarely speaks of virtues. When is the last time you heard a famous person talk about humility or dignity? More often we hear about victory at all costs and unbridled self-

expression. Being obnoxious and deliberately offensive is defended as being "politically incorrect." Drunkenness is "just having fun," and self-mutilation is "gender reclassification." If someone promotes virtue, he/she is investigated until their enemies can find the first opportunity to call that person a hypocrite. The cultural elite must silence the "moralists."

Even though we will be mocked and resented, Christians need to be champions of moral virtue. We will not live perfect moral lives (Rom. 3:23), and the hypocrite label will be easily applied, but we cannot shrink into the

quicksand of moral compromise. Peter wrote, "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps" (I Peter 2:21).

Jesus is our model for love, honesty, integrity, humility, and all the noble virtues. When each virtue is applied to our daily activities, we become brighter lights for Jesus. Our influence will be stronger, and our evangelism will be impactful. Mark Twain said, "It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare."

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- James will begin a sermon series this morning titled, "The Bible: A World of Contrasts."
- Lori Dickens, secretary at Goodpasture, had a successful surgery on a tumor in her next last week. She expects to be back to work Tuesday.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Paula Lee, Maxine Hearn, the Newells, and all those affected by terrorism.

Hillcrest Nursing Home Worship Today At 2:30 A.M. Sermon: "License To Sin"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: JL Shelton

Serve: Demonbreum, Hovis, Trent 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

Galatians 5:13
“For you were called to
freedom, brethren; only do
not turn your freedom into
an opportunity for the flesh,
but through love serve one
another.”

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

*“The best index to a person’s character is how
he treats people who cannot do him any good,
and how he treats people who can’t fight back.”*

Abigail Van Buren

Giving Thanks

On September 8, 1860, the “Lady Elgin” steamer capsized in Lake Michigan about one mile from shore. Edward Spencer, a student at Northwestern University, swam out to the steamer and pulled one person to shore. He caught his breath, then swam out again...and again and again. By the end of the day, Spencer had rescued 17 people. But due to the frigid water temperature and bacteria in the water, Spencer’s ears became severely infected, and he suffered brain damage. For the rest of his life, Spencer suffered from episodes of dementia. He lived to be 81 years old, but his lifestyle was greatly affected by his heroic efforts in 1860. Sadly, not one of the 17

people Spencer saved ever returned to offer thanks. Not one. But his wife said it never bothered him: “My husband never manifested any feeling of resentment, and I am sure he felt none.”

This story reminds us of Jesus’ healing of ten lepers in Luke 17. Only one healed man returned, and Jesus wondered why the others didn’t. When we take our sins to the Lord and obey the gospel, we are cleansed—our sins are washed away (Acts 22:16). Such a dramatic, eternity-altering event would demand thanksgiving to God. So, when is the last time you specifically thanked God for being saved? I’m sure you prayed for your food today, and I am

positive that you requested many things from God in your prayers. That’s good. You should. But did you thank Him for saving you? If someone pulled you away from a sinking ship to safety, how many times would you thank him? 10 times? 50 times? Every day for the rest of your life? Maybe. Is God not worthy of that same praise for saving your soul?

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting and His faithfulness to all generations” (Psalm 100:4-5).