

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Suicide

**April 10, 2016**

**Issue 258**

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S. Approximately 43,000 Americans kill themselves each year, and nearly 25 times that many attempt suicide. The rate of suicide is highest among white middle-aged men. Men die by suicide 3.5 times more often than women. The statistics regarding teenage suicides are even more alarming. Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death among teenagers, and 80 percent of those teenagers gave clear warning signs prior to taking their own lives.

There are myriad reasons why someone would take

his own life: prolonged depression, impulse due to extreme embarrassment or disappointment, mental disease, hopelessness, fear, etc. There is one simple philosophy that isn't necessarily going to prevent all suicides, but it should be imbedded in the minds of all people (particularly teenagers) in order to create a positive outlook on life. It's this: To be happy, one must have something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for. (This credo has been attributed to many people.) Those who have attempted or completed suicide have often been lacking in one of those three areas.

So...do you have something

to do? I don't mean your job necessarily. I'm talking about a higher purpose. Do you have goals? Will you do something constructive today for someone else?

Then...do you have someone to love? We want to stay alive when we have someone to care for and care about.

Finally...what do you hope for? Christians set their minds on things above (Col. 3:1-3). We look forward to heaven.

If we could teach those simple principles to young people, maybe we would see happier, more productive, hopeful teenagers.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Pray for Amanda Smith, a friend of Wes Hovis. She was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She is 29.
- Macie Shelton is recovering from cataract surgery. She will have another this Tuesday.
- Edward Simpkins' back went out last Sunday.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Paula Lee, Maxine Hearn, the Newells, and all those affected by terrorism.

**Men's Meeting Tonight At 5:00**

**Singing Tonight At 6:00**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Terry Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Simpkins, L. Newell

Pray: Cartwright

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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

Acts 20:35  
“In everything I showed you  
that by working hard in this  
manner you must help the  
weak and remember the  
words of the Lord Jesus, that  
He Himself said, ‘It is more  
blessed to give than to  
receive.’”

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

*“People can change their minds or lose their  
minds, but Jesus is the same yesterday, today,  
and forever.”*

*Anonymous*

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## Basic Truths

I “grew up in the church.” My dad has always preached. All of my grandparents were Christians. My brothers and my two nieces are Christians. Spending so much time in the church, I began hearing phrases in sermons and classes that were used so often they almost became trite. But even though those statements have been repeated for decades, that doesn’t make them any less significant or truthful. Here are a few:

(1). “*Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.*” Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you...that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3). In the first gospel sermon, Peter said, “Be saved from this per-

verse generation!” (Acts 2:40).

Clearly, heaven is a prepared place for prepared people.

(2). “*In the gospel, there are facts to be believed, commands to be obeyed, and promises to be fulfilled.*” We must believe that we sinned, that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, and that He is the only hope for our salvation. We then must obey His commands if we love Him (John 15:15). Finally, the gospel guarantees great rewards for the faithful; namely, an eternal home in heaven.

(3). “*Joy is an acronym—Jesus first, Others second, Yourself third.*” Jesus said we cannot serve two masters. In other words, Jesus cannot be tied for

first in our lives; He must always be alone in that position. Paul wrote that “with humility of mind [we must] regard one another as more important than yourselves” (Phil. 2:3). If we stay in third place, we will always be champions of faith.

Someone once said, “Man doesn’t need to be taught as much as he needs to be reminded.” Repeating biblical truths is never a bad thing. It’s necessary for our spiritual survival. If God’s word is to be obeyed more than once, it should be taught more than once.

James Hayes

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