

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## What Are You Inviting Me To?

April 17, 2016

Issue 259

Wedding invitations are quite elaborate. There is the outer envelope with the calligraphied address; the inside envelope which contains the actual invitation; and then the invitation, which has more calligraphy, more names, and the date and location of the wedding. When you receive an invitation like that, you know what you're getting into. There will be music, cake, flowers, pictures, and crying. There's no mystery.

Any time you meet someone, you are also receiving an invitation, but you don't always know what you're being invited to do. For instance, sometimes people are inviting you to...

(1) *Drama*. Their lives are chaotic, and they want you to experience the chaos with them. Their finances are in distress, their relationships are in shambles, and their emotions are fried. So ask yourself, "Do I need more chaos in my life or less chaos?" We all answer that question the same way.

(2) *Sin*. Satan uses any method at his disposal to pull you away from God, and sometimes he uses new people in your life. These new friends are inviting you experience a world you've been purposefully trying to avoid as a faithful Christian. As the father said in Proverbs 1: "My son, do not walk in the way with

them. Keep your feet from their path" (v. 15).

(3) *Relief*. This is the best invitation from a new person in your life. He or she will bring you encouragement when you're down, sympathy when you're grieving, and patience when you're doubting. They will love you unconditionally and help you grow in your faith. These are the best friends. These are the invitations we should always accept.

Remember: The word "no" is not a four-letter word. Use it when it's needed. Don't accept every invitation. Protect yourself. Protect your heart.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Rick Reed, Mike's dad, will have a pacemaker installed on April 28.
- Randy Baker will have a biopsy this week.
- Donna Young was taken to the hospital last weekend. She was back with us Wednesday.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Paula Lee, Maxine Hearn, the Newells, and all those affected by terrorism.

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Annual Area-wide Singing This Friday Night At 7:00  
VBS Will Be June 19-23

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Walker

Pray: JL Shelton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Baker

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Trent, Gupton

Pray: Hovis

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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

Proverbs 4:7  
“The beginning of wisdom is:  
Acquire wisdom; and with all  
your acquiring, get  
understanding.”

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

*“I have never in my life envied a human being  
who led an easy life. I have envied a great many  
people who led difficult lives and led them  
well.”*

*Theodore Roosevelt*

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## Misinterpreted Verses

Scroll through your text messages and notice how many messages sound really weird today, but when you wrote them, they made perfect sense. Why? Because every conversation has context. Looking at one random sentence here or there does not give someone the full understanding of the conversation. The same is true with Scripture. Taking one verse out of the Bible and holding it up by itself will not give you the full meaning of the verse. Here are a few verses that have been wrenched out of context:

(1). *Matthew 18:20*: “For where two or three have gathered in My name, I am there in their midst.” Most people use this verse to justify a small worship

service where only a handful of Christians are present. But this verse has nothing to do with worship. Jesus had just described a method for handling situations where two Christians have conflict. His statement in verse 20 could be said this way: “When you are meeting to discuss these matters—no matter how small the group—I am there. Remember that.”

(2). *Philippians 4:13*: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” This is not a verse about human achievement. It has nothing to do with reaching your goals with the power of Christ. Paul was discussing contentment in *Philippians 4*. He said he knew how to live in abun-

dance and in need. No matter what his circumstances were, Jesus would always strengthen him. People rarely use this verse during times of distress, but they should.

(3). *Matthew 7:1*: “Do not judge so that you will not be judged.” Jesus was not forbidding us from making righteous judgments in this verse. He went on to say that we should not judge others while we have glaring deficiencies in our own lives. But once those deficiencies have been addressed, “then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye” (v. 5).

James Hayes

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