

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Great Patience

July 3, 2016

Issue 270

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).

Wouldn't it be nice if everyone was a finished product? Wouldn't it be great if every 14-year-old was as mature as he/she could possibly be *today*? Wouldn't it make life easier if every man were a spiritual leader in their home and church *today*? How much better would the world be if divorce, abuse, and neglect had been resolved in every victim *today*?

But the fact is, none of us is a finished product. We're

all weak, broken, selfish people (to varying degrees). We're all a work-in-progress. We have lived different lives, traveled different parents, learned different things, and met the Lord at different times, if at all. The Lord knows that. That's why Peter wrote that the Lord is patient toward you. He doesn't want you to die in sin. He wants you to repent and obey the gospel. But He also knows that it takes some time for some people to understand that they're lost. It takes time for people to mature spiritually. It's not an overnight process for most people.

If we are to wear the name of Christ as Christians properly, we also need to

exhibit patience with our neighbors, friends, and family. Too often we expect others to be on the same spiritual level as ourselves, but that's not fair. Jesus encountered all sorts of people who were on different levels of spirituality, but He engaged all of them and taught them what they needed to hear.

“Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life” (I Tim. 1:16).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Jesse Wayne Head passed away early Saturday morning. Visitation today from 3-8 at Austion and Bell Funeral Home in Pleasant View. Graveside service at 10:00 Monday at Ever Rest.
- The first two nights of our Gospel Meeting will be at Coopertown, just like last year, with homemade and deserts after the Sunday night service.

Gospel Meeting, July 24-27

Tim Agee's Theme Will Be, “Examining Faith In Jesus Christ”

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Walker

Pray: Wes Hovis

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: T. Walker

Serve: J. Demonbreum, L. Newell, Billingsley

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

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

*“Sometimes when you sacrifice something pre-
cious, you’re not really losing it. You’re just
passing it on to someone else.”*

Mitch Albom

Psalm 51:12
“Restore to me the joy of
your salvation and sustain
me with a willing spirit.”

The Particulars of Baptism

Baptism is still a widely debated topic within evangelical Christianity. Here are the main issues that are discussed:

(1). *Is baptism a work of merit?* There are three types of works mentioned in the Bible: works of the law, works of merit, and works of faith. The works of the law are the things required of God’s people who lived under the law of Moses. Works of merit are the things we do to earn credit or a salary or some sort of recognition. Works of faith are things we do to demonstrate our love for the Lord and our fellow man. Baptism is obviously not a work of the law, and nowhere in Scripture is it called a work of merit.

Baptism, therefore, is a faith response to the Lord’s commands.

(2). *Is baptism necessary for salvation?* About 3,000 people were baptized on the day of Pentecost upon hearing that they had crucified our Lord. If those Jews did not think that baptism was necessary for their salvation, why would they take the time to be baptized that day? Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16). Paul and Peter both wrote about how baptism separates man from sin (Rom. 6:1-7; I Peter 3:21). Baptism is as necessary for salvation as faith, confession, repentance, and faithfulness.

(3). *The thief on the cross was saved without baptism.* True, but he wasn’t saved without Jesus. While Jesus walked this earth, He could forgive anyone He wanted (Mark 2:10). The new covenant didn’t begin until after his death (Heb. 9:15-17). We are living on this side of Jesus’ death, so we are subject to the commands of this covenant, which include baptism.

There is no reason to kick against baptism. To reject baptism is to reject God’s plan for redemption. And I wouldn’t want to stand before the Lord one day with that stain on my life.

James Hayes
