

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Not For Me!

A mother gave her young son two apples and told him to divide the apples with his sister. She also told him that it would be generous if he gave her the bigger apple. He said, "Look Mom, you give the apples to her and ask her to be generous."

When you read a command from Scripture, who are you thinking about, yourself or someone else? When you hear a sermon, do you think, "I'm glad so-and-so is here. They *really* need to hear this"? It's easy to let God's word fly right past us. It's easy to deflect God's will by simply saying, "That's not for me." Spiritual side-stepping is even used to avoid core biblical

doctrines.

(1). *Divorce and remarriage.* There are many Christians who have strong feelings about divorce and remarriage. But those strongly held beliefs often change when they find themselves facing a divorce, or when a member of their own family is in that situation.

(2). *Worship and Bible study attendance.* When church leadership pleads for members to take four hours of their week to fellowship, worship, and study, the message falls on many deaf ears. Some Christians assume that since other Christians will attend all the services, they don't have to.

(3). *Giving.* "I'm not wealthy, so I don't have to give much" is an excuse some use to avoid being generous. "Let the rich support the various works of the church."

One of my favorite Bible teachers once said, "If you read the Bible and it doesn't challenge you, you're too cozy with it." The Bible shouldn't make you feel cozy. You should feel overwhelmed and challenged.

"For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword...and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

James Hayes

July 17, 2016

Issue 272

Items of Note:

- Continue to pray for the Hagan family. Haley Hagan Rector has been diagnosed with breast cancer. She is 38.
- Randy Baker will have a biopsy next week.
- Pray for Algin Denny's daughter. She is in hospice care.
- Men's breakfast with Coopertown on Saturday, July 23 at 7:00 a.m.
- Super Saturday VBS at Coopertown, July 23 at 9:00 a.m.

Happy Haven Contribution Today Gospel Meeting, July 24-27

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: JL Shelton

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Trent, Brown

Pray: Cartwright

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.*

*“Choose rather to want less, than to have
more.”*

Matthew 5:44
“But I say to you, love your
enemies, bless those who
curse you, do good to those
who hate you, and pray for
those who spitefully use you
and persecute you.”

Thomas A. Kempis

Finding Happiness

In February 1976, 12-year-old Canadian Lisa Lester held a smile for 10 hours, 5 minutes, breaking the Guinness World Record by over three hours. She easily won the Manitoba Dental Association Smiling Marathon.

How long could you hold a smile? I doubt you could hold it for more than a few minutes. And considering all the turmoil in the world—the terrorism, the cancer, the abuse, and so on—it’s even hard to find a few minutes of the day to *feel like* smiling. Is that the way God wants us to live? Is life supposed to be sheer happiness 24/7? Are we sinning when we know that the Lord made this day, but we are not rejoicing and

being glad in it?

The old adage has been repeated many times: “The Lord never promised we’d always be happy.” And that’s true. Jesus never said that the Christian life would insulate us from the world’s troubles. Christians are as susceptible to disease, heartache, and death as any other person. So the question isn’t, *will* we always be happy? The question is, *where* do we find happiness?

Spiritual contentment—the Christian’s ultimate fulfillment—can be found when we know and follow God’s word. It’s just that simple. In God’s word we’re taught how to find peace in tragedy, comfort during grief, and satisfaction in poverty.

The Bible gives us a path to happiness if we’ll only obey it.

The longest chapter in the Bible—Psalm 119—is entirely devoted to the praise of God’s word.

“How blessed (happy) are those whose ways are blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord. How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all their heart...Oh that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes...I shall give thanks to you with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments” (Psalm 119:1-2,5,7).

James Hayes
