

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Freedom From Sin

July 24, 2016

Issue 273

Once a man was tried and convicted of murder. His brother went to the governor to plead for a pardon. After many appeals, the pardon was granted. The brother had just one request: He wanted to personally deliver the pardon to his brother. The request was granted. So the brother put the pardon in his shirt pocket and went to the prison to see his brother. When he sat down, he asked, "What would you do if you were granted a pardon?" The convict sat up in his chair and sternly said, "First, I'd find that judge and murder him. Then I'd go after that key witness and murder him, too." The brother stood up and said,

"That's all I needed to know." And he walked out of the room without giving his convicted brother the pardon.

Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of actions. The convicted murderer clearly had no intention of changing his actions. If you are in Christ, you have been granted a pardon. You have been declared righteous because the blood of Christ has washed your sins away. Why then would you want to run back to a world that Jesus saved you from? The apostle Paul asked this rhetorical question: "How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6:2). He asked that question

because the Roman church misunderstood grace. Many in that church thought that grace was the ultimate spiritual excuse—something that could be leaned on if one wanted to sin. Paul corrected that false assumption. Grace was (is) not an excuse to sin; it gives us freedom *from* sin.

We must strive never to mock the sacrifice Jesus made to free us from sin by willfully engaging in sinful behavior. Will you sin? Of course. But we should never deliberately run into Satan's camp while waving a banner that reads "I AM THANKFUL FOR GRACE."

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Invite a friend to our Gospel Meeting this week. Sometimes it's better to invite someone to a specific night instead of saying, "Come any night." If each person at Pleasant View brings just one other person, we'll have a full house every night. Particularly invite those who are outside of Christ. You never know what they might hear that would encourage them to become a Christian.

Gospel Meeting Begins Tonight At Coopertown At 6:00 P.M. Bring Desserts And/Or Ice Cream

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: E. Walker

Pray: Terry Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Simpkins, Gupton

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.*

*“To handle yourself, use your head; to handle
others, use your heart.”*

Eleanor Roosevelt

Hebrews 12:3

“For consider Him who has
endured such hostility by
sinners against Himself, so
that you will not grow weary
and lose heart.”

I Have Baptism, But I Don't Have...

Hopefully at some point in your life someone taught you the fundamental facts of the gospel. You were told that there were facts to be believed (you are a sinner, only Jesus saves, He is the Son of God), commands to be obeyed (faith, confession, repentance, baptism), and promises to be fulfilled (assurance of an eternal home in heaven). But have you ever strayed from most of those doctrines and rested on the fact that you've been baptized? Some people have baptism, but they don't have...

(1). *Faith*. They are constantly living in a fear that Jesus won't save them. They reject “once saved, always saved,” but they replace it with another false doctrine: “once saved,

never saved.” They are confident in their baptism, but they distrust Jesus' power to save them.

(2). *Love*. Their baptism didn't change their perspective on their fellow man. It didn't cause them to see others as lost souls who need to be taught the gospel commands and receive the same blessings they received.

(3). *A transformed home life*. Some people have submitted to baptism but never used that moment to transform their family life. A “new creature” (II Cor. 5:17) should endeavor to make a new home that is faithful and loving and committed to God's word.

4). *More knowledge of Scripture*. Too many people think that baptism is the end of faith instead of the beginning. Therefore, they no longer feel the need to study God's word. But the Bible teaches us to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (II Peter 3:18).

Baptism alone does not save someone's soul. We must be converted (Matthew 18:3). We must be faithful until death (Rev. 2:10). We must always fix “our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith” (Heb. 12:2).

James Hayes
