

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## What Must I Do To Be Saved?

August 7, 2016

Issue 274

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were stripped, beaten with rods, and thrown into a bleak Philippian jail. Despite their desperate circumstances, Paul and Silas sang praises to God at midnight. Then the unexpected happened: An earthquake shook the ground and dislodged the doors of the jail. Fearing the prisoners would be freed and he would be held liable, the jailor drew his sword to kill himself. Paul stopped him. Then the jailor asked the question that has been asked by millions of people for millennia: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

First, let us consider some possible answers that Paul could have given, but did-

n't:

(1). "*Pray the Sinner's Prayer.*" According to Wikipedia, "Bill Graham and evangelistic organizations like Campus Crusade for Christ brought the concept to prominence in the 20<sup>th</sup> century." Those who promote it say it is a prayer that one prays in order to repent of his/her sins and begin a personal relationship with Christ. But the Sinner's Prayer is found nowhere in Scripture, and it was not the answer Paul gave to the jailor's question.

(2). "*Do nothing.*" Even the jailor knew he had to *do* something in order to be saved. Salvation requires a

faith response.

(3). "*Just believe that Jesus is the Son of God.*" Belief alone saves no one. James wrote, "...the demons also believe, and shudder" (James 2:19).

So what *was* Paul's answer to the jailor? Acts 16:31-33 states that Paul "spoke the word of the Lord to him," which included the need to believe in the Lord Jesus and the need to be baptized. The jailor did both, along with his whole household.

If we are asked that same question today, we need to give the same answer.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- We were blessed by John Kachelman's presentation Wednesday night. Continue to pray for his work in Ukraine.
- Also pray for our students and teachers as they begin a new school year. We know that they face challenges that previous generations never dreamed of.
- We had a great building fund contribution last week, roughly doubling our weekly average.

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Nursing Home Worship Today At 2:30  
Bible Bowl Practice At 5:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: Hovis

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Simpkins, Reed

Pray: Shelton

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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

Ephesians 5:1-2  
“Therefore be imitators of  
God as beloved children;  
and walk in love, just as  
Christ also loved you and  
gave Himself up for us, and  
offering and a sacrifice to  
God as a fragrant aroma.”

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

*“Christ gave Himself as a sin-offering for us. Let  
us give ourselves as a thank-offering for Him.”*

*Thomas Watson*

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## The Most Important Verse In The Bible

What is the most important verse in the Bible? Some believe that it is almost blasphemous to ask the question—how can one verse be more important than another verse since every verse is inspired by the Holy Spirit? But it is an interesting question nonetheless. Is John 3:16 the most important verse? It might be. It is a definition of the gospel. Others might say Acts 2:38 is the most important verse. It is an answer to the question of what one must do to have his sins washed away. But I think the verse that gets neglected in this discussion is the first verse of the Bible. If one believes Genesis 1:1, he has no choice but to believe every verse that follows it.

When you teach a lost person about salvation, begin with Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” No one can become a Christian without a serious dose of humility, and this verse provides it. The sinner needs to know that he did not create himself. He did not determine the day he would be born. He did not organize his own genetic material. God made the world, including every living person. “It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves” (Psalm 100:3). He also needs to understand that this world was not an accident—it was made for a purpose. Many lost people live their lives thinking that all of life is a chance happening. If

there’s no purpose in life, then there is no reason to live honorably. The first verse of Scripture teaches us that God gives man a reason to live.

Finally, if God made everything, isn’t He worthy of our praise, devotion, and obedience? Shouldn’t we give our lives to the One who made us? Shouldn’t we trust His divine word? Shouldn’t we strive to love Him more and more every day? Shouldn’t we believe in His Son?

The first verse in the Bible is not just a good way to begin a book—it gives validity to everything that follows it.

James Hayes

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