

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Opinions

August 14, 2016

Issue 275

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "opinion" as, "a belief, judgment, or way of thinking about something: what someone thinks about a particular thing." Everyone has opinions, and everyone has opinions about everything. We have opinions of sports teams, cars, food, movies, clothes, everything.

But opinions can change. For instance, when I was a child I didn't like tomatoes at all. Unless it was a tomato-based product like pizza sauce or ketchup, I didn't eat tomatoes. But over the years, I started to eat tomatoes on sandwiches and in salads. (A nurse once told me that our taste buds change about every

seven years.) But here's the catch: the tomato itself didn't change at all over the years. It still has the same consistency and flavor. The only thing that changed was my opinion of tomatoes.

Unfortunately, we live in an era where many people think that their opinion of Scripture changes Scripture itself. But when God set about revealing His will to man through His Spirit, he didn't take a poll, and He didn't design Scripture to be a malleable piece of clay that can be molded to fit the whims of the readers.

Scripture is timeless. It cannot mean something today that it didn't mean 2,000

years ago. If each generation were supposed to have their own interpretation and application of Scripture, the Bible would be useless. God is no respecter of persons.

God is no respecter of persons. There are not multiple gospel messages, with various responses to those gospels. The gospel is *for* you, but it was not written, designed, preserved, or accomplished *by* you. So, we have no right to alter its message. And think about it: If you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, why would you even *want* to change the plain reading of Scripture?

Items of Note:

- We finally topped the quarter million mark in our building fund. Anything collected over \$2000 each week goes to that fund, including the entire fifth Sunday contribution.
- Remember in your prayers those we have mentioned recently, including Addie Farmer, Mildred Walker, the Newells, Rick Reed, Randy Baker, Haley Rector, and all of our missionaries who are preaching in hostile territories.

Men's Meeting At 5:00, As Well As Bible Bowl Practice Singing At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Terry Walker

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Trent, L. Newell

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

1 Peter 3:12-13
“For the eyes of the Lord
are toward the righteous,
and his ears attend to their
prayer, but the face of the
Lord is against those who do
evil. Who is there to harm
you if you prove zealous for
what is good?”

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

*“The greatest thing in this world is not so much
where we stand as in what direction we are mov-
ing.”*

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Using God’s Word

Let’s examine how people have viewed Scripture over previous generations of American history.

Once upon a time, the Bible was sacrosanct. Those were the words of God, translated into English. Did Christians of those generations live up to the standard set by Jesus and His apostles? Of course not. But they had an understanding that the Bible was not to be taken lightly, so they were serious about studying God’s word. Bible verse memorization was common. The average Christian in the pews on Sunday understood words like atonement, covenant, and revelation. Being a preacher was the noblest calling for a man, and women would be honored to be

married to a preacher.

Then things changed. Shifts in American culture crept into the church. Christians began saying things like, “Acts through Revelation is just commentary that’s based on 1st century customs. There is some good stuff in those books, but that part of the Bible isn’t as relevant as the gospels.” So issues like worship activities, family matters, and church organization were greatly debated.

But that wasn’t enough. As culture continued to slide farther and farther away from biblical standards, many Christians then said, “I only pay attention to the red letters of Christ. I’m a Christian, after all. His

words are all that matter.” So certain behaviors that were defined as sinful throughout the New Testament were now considered acceptable because Jesus never specifically addressed them.

But it didn’t stop there. Since Jesus *did* specifically address matters that made some Christians uncomfortable, they even started editing His commands. So Jesus’ teaching on marriage and divorce, for instance, began to be explained away. Some started saying, “God knows my heart” as a way to excuse sin. May we never stray from God’s word for personal convenience.

James Hayes
