

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Penance Vs. Repentance

August 28, 2016

Issue 277

At the end of every year, an old country doctor would review his accounts. As he scanned the outstanding debts, he would often take a red pen and mark through a name and add "CANNOT PAY." After all, the doctor knew every person in town, and he knew that no matter how small the bill was there would be some patients who just couldn't pay. After the doctor's death, his wife reviewed the books. She figured that most of the town owed her late husband thousands of dollars. So, she took the books to a probate judge. When the judge reached his decision, he looked at the widow and said, "The patients owed

your husband. And he decided to cancel their debts. There is nothing you can do to collect that money. Case dismissed."

Isn't it interesting how we try to make some people repay debts to God that He already cancelled? This attitude emerges because some confuse penance with repentance. Penance is defined as, "voluntary self-punishment as an outward expression of repentance for something done wrong." In other words: beating yourself up for a sin, even after you have confessed that sin and vowed to repent. Penance deals with the past; repentance deals with the future. It's a shame that even

though someone confesses a sin and repents that he/she must then face a series of "punishments" from fellow Christians. These include things like social shunning and critical glances.

Any time you feel the need to punish a sinner who has returned to the Lord, remember the father of the Prodigal Son. The son thought the father would despise him. The son was prepared for punishment. But instead, the father threw a party. Why? Because we should all celebrate when someone does the right thing. We shouldn't punish them.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Chris Pewitt, a co-worker of Jearmie Gupton, is still in the hospital with a serious infection.
 - Rick Reed went home from Vanderbilt Monday after experiencing heart problems.
 - Dana Newell is having some complications with her pregnancy. She requests prayers.
 - Continue to pray for the Louisiana flood victims and the Christians who are being persecuted for their faith around the world.
-

A.M. Sermon: "Choosing Between Right And Right"

P.M. Sermon: "Slow To Anger"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Shelton

Serve: J. Demonbreum, E. Simpkins, Hovis

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.*

“Hell is paved with good intentions.”

Samuel Johnson

Proverbs 16:24

“Pleasant words are a
honeycomb, sweet to the
soul and healing to the
bones.”

A Balanced Diet

In the late 1700's a sailor's life was difficult, to say the least. He would spend weeks, even months, on unremitting rough seas. He was subject to pirate attacks, shipwreck, and depression. On top of that, he was often poorly nourished. Since no refrigeration was available, a sailor would subsist for weeks on dry food. If his voyage expended beyond 12 weeks, he would begin experiencing joint pain, weakness, loose teeth, and blood spots all over his body. Then, often in the middle of a sentence, the sailor would collapse from the bursting of a main artery. These sailors had contracted scurvy.

Around the same time in history many British colonials in Asia con-

tracted beriberi (pronounced “berry berry”). Symptoms included loss of feeling in the hands and feet and breathing difficulties. Heart failure and death soon followed. In 1803, Thomas Christie, a physician with the British army in Sri Lanka who had studied both scurvy and beriberi, concluded: “The chief cause of beriberi and scurvy is a want of a stimulating and nourishing diet.” The sailors had only eaten dry foods—no fruit—and the British colonials had only eaten well-processed rice, a diet void of fruits and vegetables.

In 1910, Polish biochemist Casimir Funk identified precisely what the sailors and colonists had been lack-

ing. He discovered that there was a chemical class of organic nutrients that the body needs in order to function properly. He called them “vital amines.” Today we call them “vitamins.”

For good health we need to eat a balanced diet. For good spiritual health, we need a balanced diet of prayer, meditation, worship, fellowship, Bible study, and reflection. If we deprive ourselves of any of these essential spiritual building blocks, we will die a spiritual death.

James Hayes
