

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Immersion

September 18, 2016

Issue 280

R.H. Boll told the story of a preacher who was conducting a revival in a small, rural town. One night he stated, "Some say you must go into the water to be baptized. You must be immersed. This is a fallacy. The Bible says that Moses went into the high mountain. We all know that he didn't really go *into* the mountain—he just went near the mountain. Jesus, therefore, went near the waters of the Jordan River, and John the Baptist poured water on him."

After the service, a poor farmer approached the preacher with a warm handshake and said, "Sir, I just want to thank you for preaching here tonight.

You helped me learn so much. You see, all my life I thought that when it said that Daniel was in the lion's den, he was actually in it. But I was wrong. Evidently, he was just near it. When Jonah was thrown into the sea, he didn't really go into the water—he just sat beside the water. Jesus said that the wicked will go into everlasting fire, but now I know that the wicked will just reside near the fire. Thank you again."

It is clear from the original Greek meaning of the word "baptize" that the word means "to dip or immerse." It is also clear from Scripture that immersion was practiced in the early church. Let's just consider

one passage. In Acts 8, Philip the evangelist encountered an Ethiopian eunuch on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip entered the eunuch's chariot and preached Jesus to the eunuch starting from Isaiah 53. Convicted, the eunuch wanted to be baptized. He said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). But think about it: Don't you think that the eunuch would've had water in his chariot for such a long trip? If the eunuch understood baptism as just sprinkling or pouring water on someone's head, why didn't he just say, "Philip, pour this water over me"?

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Continue to pray for John Kackelman and all those who are doing mission work around the world. These men have devoted their lives to preaching in difficult areas. They need our support.
- Kathleen Toothman, James' aunt, had hip replacement surgery Friday.
- Continue to remember Mildred Walker, Addie Farmer, Rick Reed, Randy Baker, and Dale Garrett.

## New Sermon Series Starting Today: My Favorite Chapters Happy Haven Contribution Today

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Gupton

Pray: Garrett

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: J. Demonbreum, E. Simpkins, J. Walker

Pray: M. Newell

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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

Hebrews 4:15  
“For we do not have a high  
priest who cannot  
sympathize with our  
weaknesses, but One who  
has been tempted in all  
things as we are, yet without  
sin.”

*“Wealth consists not in having great possessions, but in having few wants.”*

*Epicurus*

*“Don’t think money does everything or you are going to end up doing everything for money.”*

*Voltaire*

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## Control

After creating everything—the land, the birds, the cattle, the fish, everything—God had a two-fold desire: to make man in His own image and then have man rule over the rest of creation. Therefore, man would be different from every other created thing in terms of structure and purpose.

We are in charge. We have dominion over everything we see. We are at the top of God’s earthly designs. We “kill and eat” (Acts 10:13). God directed us to do it. It is His will.

Yet, many people are controlled by creation. They combine certain elements of creation to make very hazardous substances—alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, etc.—which become

quite addictive. They allow these things to rule over them. They cannot live without them. It is part of their daily living. They cannot imagine a day without a shot, a drag, or a dose. God never intended for His intelligent, reasoning, logical creation to submit to the lesser creation. But many have, and their lives have been shortened, their families have been destroyed, and their bank accounts have been emptied.

In the 1980s, Nancy Reagan led the “Just Say No” campaign. It was not a complicated 12-step program—children should just say no to drugs and alcohol. Some thought the plan was naïve and unrealistic. They said that children can’t say no to things.

And some even suggested that experimenting with those substances was a good idea—it would teach the children how bad those things were.

Unfortunately, many rejected the “Just say no” philosophy, and the consequences were dramatic. Addicts were created. And no addict ever said, “I want to become an addict” when they tasted their first beer or injected their first drug.

Control things. Don’t let things control you. “All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything” (I Cor. 6:12).

James Hayes

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