

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Do You Know Your Bible?

September 25, 2016

Issue 281

At age 13 the typical Jewish boy will observe his Bar Mitzvah. He reads the Torah publicly for the first time and then his synagogue declares him responsible for all of his religious activity. Neither he nor his rabbi takes this event lightly. It is preceded by months of training and careful study of Jewish tradition and the ancient Hebrew language. No Jewish 13-year-old boy is unaware of the Toranic teachings.

I wonder if the same could be said of Christian 13 year-olds? What if a similar event took place at the baptism of all Christian young people? Would that young person know his Bible? Would he even have an

elementary knowledge of the background and purpose of the 66 books of the Bible? Are we as dedicated to the serious study of our Scriptures as a Jew is of the Torah or as a Muslim is of the Koran?

A Bible professor at one of our Christian universities surveyed incoming freshmen over a period of several years. He asked them a variety of questions about their spiritual lives. Year in and year out the results were the same: A majority of the freshmen attended worship services at least twice a week, a majority attended a small group Bible study, a majority had attended a Christian retreat/camp/seminar within

the previous year, and (gulp) a majority did not know that Abraham lived before Moses! How is it that these teenagers were so interested in many activities in the church, yet they did not have even a basic knowledge of the Bible?

The answers could be many—little opportunity for formal teaching, “the Bible is boring and confusing,” churches have replaced book-chapter-verse sermons with “feel good” sermons—who knows. However, one thing we know for sure: When we close our Bibles, we muzzle God.

Shame on us.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Haley Rector has begun chemotherapy. Her father is the pharmacist at Springfield Drugs.
- Cathy Lawson, sister of Faye Head, is experiencing dementia along with Parkinson's.
- Sue Clymore will have heart bypass surgery Wednesday at Centennial.
- Gracie Henderson, friend of Trent Walker, had an ATV accident.
- Jack Head, Faye Head's neighbor, has lymphoma.

Part Two of “My Favorite Chapters” Series: Romans 8 P.M. Sermon: “Lies Christians Tell All The Time”

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: D. Demonbreum, L. Newell, Trent

Pray: Terry Walker

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

Proverbs 19:20-21
“Listen to counsel and accept
discipline, that you may be
wise the rest of your days.
Many plans are in a man’s
heart, but the counsel of the
Lord will stand.”

*“Anxiety is love’s greatest killer. It makes others
feel as you might when a drowning man holds
onto you. You want to save him, but you know
he will strangle you with his panic.”*

Anais Nin

*“Worry is carrying tomorrow’s load with to-
day’s strength—carrying two days at once. Wor-
rying doesn’t empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it
empties today of its strength.”*

Corrie Ten Boom

Eruption

You’ve heard of Harry Truman, the man who became president when Franklin Roosevelt died. But you probably do not know the other Harry Truman, who, at the age of 83, stubbornly refused to leave his home near Mount St. Helens in Washington state. He died along with 56 others on May 18, 1980 when Mount St. Helens erupted, covering him and his town with 150 feet of volcanic debris.

For several months leading up to the eruption, Truman’s friends urged him to leave his home of 54 years. Mount St. Helens had been spewing debris and ash for quite some time, and local geologists were convinced that a sizeable eruption was immi-

nent. “If the mountain goes, I’ll go with it,” Truman insisted. “You can move the mountain, but I’m never coming down.” Harry Truman was right—he never came down.

Foolish, is it not? Mr. Truman ignore repeated warnings. If he had only followed the instructions of the experts, his last days would’ve been filled with peace, not terror. He joins a long list of people who ignored warnings only to lose their lives foolishly. The book of Genesis recounts the story of Noah, a man who followed God’s instruction without hesitation and was saved from a worldwide flood. Those who did not heed Noah’s instruction were drowned. Genesis 19 tells us

the story of Lot’s family, who heeded the angel’s warning and fled the wicked city of Sodom. Later in Scripture, the Israelites were captured by the Babylonians for refusing to listen to God’s prophets.

In the New Testament, we read many warnings about the return of Christ. I Thess. 5:2-3: “For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly...”

Heed God’s warnings. Get ready to see the Lord.

James Hayes
