

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Whole Purpose of God

January 15, 2017

Issue 296

Paul loved the Ephesian church. He spent more time in Ephesus than any other city he visited during his three missionary journeys. While chained in a Roman prison Paul penned a beautiful letter to those Ephesian brethren, reminding them of the wonderful transformation God had made in their lives. During his farewell speech to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20, Paul recalled the single purpose of his going to Ephesus: "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God" (Acts 20:27).

What is the whole purpose of God? It could be summarized in the word "gospel." The gospel is the good

news of Jesus Christ. From Genesis to Revelation that good news is revealed from heaven. In Romans, Paul stated that he was not ashamed of the gospel because it was the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes (1:16). The Bible might be described as the black and white gospel that teaches us about creation, the fall of man, justification (by faith), sanctification (by the Holy Spirit), and glorification (in heaven).

But there is more to the "whole purpose of God." The Bible answers the "Now what?" question. Galatians 5:25 states: "If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." Along

with the "black and white gospel," there is also the "walking gospel." Jesus said that we have to be salt and light in a bland, dark world. We have to take up our cross and follow Jesus. We have to show the world that there is one God, and that He is holy. We have to proclaim His Son as the only Savior. We have to spread the seed of truth so that God can give the increase. We have to wear the name of Christ proudly when we declare, "I am a Christian!" This is the walking gospel.

Let's be sure we share the whole purpose of God with the lost world every day.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- "One Word" devotional books are available on the front pew. Give \$3 to James for each book.
- Addie Farmer is in a nursing home in Ridgetop.
- Haley Rector just had her 11th chemotherapy treatment.
- Austin Gee continues to recover on schedule.
- If you would like to help teach the youngest children's class on Wednesday night, see Jeff Baker.

Question and Answer Sermon Tonight Building Fund Contribution In Two Weeks!

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: E. Walker

Pray: Billingsley

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Simpkins, J. Walker

Pray: W. Hovis

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

“Without the dark, we’d never see the stars.”

Stephanie Meyer

*“Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall
never be disappointed.”*

Alexander Pope

Ephesians 4:31-32

“Let all bitterness and anger
and wrath and anger and
clamor and slander be put
away from you, along with
all malice.”

Theft

Scottish theologian William Barclay (1907-1978) authored one of the most powerful expositions of the Ten Commandments. In *The Plain Man’s Guide to Ethics: Thoughts on the Ten Commandments* (1973), Barclay puts each commandment in its proper historical context while giving each one modern day relevance. The most practical chapter of the book is on the eighth commandment, “Thou shalt not steal.” He brings to light current forms of theft that may have been unknown in Old Testament times:

1. *Clever theft.* The most popular form of clever thievery is undeclared income. On April 15 many people will not hesitate to hide income

from the IRS. They’ll come up with all sorts of excuses for doing so: “The government wastes my money anyway”; “I need the money more than they do”; “What’s a few dollars here or there?” etc.

2. *Theft of innocence.* Innocence is stolen from children on a daily basis. Children are being exposed to violence, sexuality, and other forms of vulgarity. Once upon a time children could be children and not have to face adult situations. But they are constantly bombarded by perverted images that rob them of their most precious virtue—innocence.

3. *Stealing time.* You are probably overworked and underpaid. But many others are overpaid and under-

worked. Strive to make good use of your time and your employers’ time.

4. *Character theft.* Gossip robs people. Of their reputation. Lying misleads good people. All people should be encouraged to do good things, not criticized and slandered for every misstep. We do not have the right to steal anyone’s character.

5. *Stealing possessions.* Even though God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, He entrusts us to be good stewards of those cattle. Jesus assumed that people had a right to their own possessions, and that no one else had the right to take them without consent.

James Hayes
