

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

You Have To See It To Believe It

February 5, 2017

Issue 299

One of the most popular movies of the 1980's was *Back to the Future*, starring Michael J. Fox. Fox plays Marty McFly, a down-in-the-dumps, bored teenager whose only friends are his girlfriend and an eccentric scientist named Dr. Emmet Brown. Dr. Brown's scientific goal is to build a time machine out of a Delorean and some high-powered plutonium. Against all odds (and with a good dose of Hollywood absurdity), Marty drives the Delorean the prescribed 88 MPH, and...POOF!...he finds himself in 1955, where he meets a young Dr. Brown and his own teenage parents. Due to a series of unfortunate events, Marty

causes a rift between his parents that he must fix, or else he will never be born.

Crazy, I know. But this movie's popularity was based on one simple premise: we all want to go back in time.

This is a particularly helpful idea when it comes to Bible study. We cannot get into a time machine and travel 2000 years into the past. We cannot flip through the pages of a picture album and view images of Jesus walking on water or preaching a sermon. But we can go there in our mind's eye. Each page of Scripture takes us back. As you read those pages, ask yourself, "What if I were

standing there?" What if you were sitting among the crowd as Jesus distributed five loaves of bread and two fish to a crowd of over 5,000 people? What if you were sitting on that hillside as Jesus preached what we call the Sermon on the Mount? How could you react if you were standing at the foot of the cross and saw an innocent man's blood pour from His body? What would you do knowing that all of that was done for you?

Don't look at the Bible and say, "That was then, this is now." Hold the Bible close to your heart and say, "This is now, and this is for me."

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Jean Pennington had another surgery last week to remove more of her leg.
 - Haley Rector had her final chemotherapy on Thursday.
 - If you ordered a "One Word" book or books, you can pick them up on the front pew.
 - Pray for Mildred Walker, our government officials, John Kachelman, Jim Waldron, and those who are experiencing civil war around the world.
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This Morning's Sermon: "Mercy" Hillcrest Nursing Home Service Today At 2:30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: Hovis

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: J.. Demonbreum, J. Walker, Baker

Pray: John Hayes

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

*“Don’t cry because it’s over; smile because it
happened.”*

Dr. Suess

*“Life is what happens while we are making
other plans.”*

Allen Saunders

II Thess. 3:3
“But the Lord is faithful, and
He will strengthen and
protect you from the evil
one.”

Is Controversy Desirable?

The following is an excerpt from an article by Alan Highers, *Gospel Advocate* (January 2, 1964).

Not long ago I heard a man commending one of the papers published in the brotherhood by saying: “During the years before I was baptized, this is the only paper I ever saw. My wife gathered up all the other papers published in the brotherhood and burned them before I saw them, because she knew they were filled with matters of controversy.”

I was made to wonder whether she also hid the New Testament from him, for it, too, is “filled with matters of controversy.” That includes controversy that existed within the church as well as without. I consider that I am a member of the same church that is revealed in the

New Testament, and inasmuch as controversy existed then I am not shocked to realize that it exists now.

If people read the New Testament and are not repelled from the church as it is pictured there, why should we fear for them to know the same conditions exist in the same church today? In fact, few churches today, if any, have as many problems as the Corinthian church. But it was still the church of God at Corinth (I Cor. 1:2).

As long as humans are in the church, the church will have controversy and disagreement. Most of those disagreements are simply matters of judgment. They are not book, chapter, verse issues. Therefore, those issues should be resolved

quickly, without dissention or disrespect. If the controversy involves plainly stated biblical doctrines, then controversy should not be avoided. Respect and humility still need to be demonstrated, but the Bible should be defended above all.

“I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints. For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 3-4).

James Hayes
