

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

## Pleasant View church of Christ

### You May Be Right

February 12, 2017

Issue 300

Ira North was the preacher for the Madison church of Christ from 1953 until his death in 1984 at the age of 61. During his tenure, Madison grew to become the largest church of Christ in the world, with a weekly attendance in the thousands. Being the preacher of such a large church came with obvious challenges, not the least of which enduring was constant criticism. North received a lengthy letter once from a disgruntled member who pointed out all of North's flaws. North gave a one-sentence response: "You may be right." That was definitely the best way to defuse that bomb.

How do you handle criti-

cism? What is your first instinct? Most people do not respond with, "You may be right." It's usually, "You are definitely wrong!" We get defensive. We explain away. We are quick with excuses. Or we give no response at all and ignore it. But what are some better ways to handle the criticisms of others?

1). *Concede common ground.* There is likely a kernel of truth in all criticism. Acknowledge it.

2). *Stick to the facts.* Make sure to let the other person know that you will not deal with speculations or suppositions.

3). *Avoid personal attacks.* Do not accept them or give

them. Name-calling and degrading condescension should not be known among Christians.

4). *Make it quick.* Drawn out exchanges only add fuel to fires and ignite emotional responses. Find a way to resolve the issue quickly. Even Jesus wanted Judas to get the betrayal over with quickly.

5). *Be willing to say, "You may be right."* It might be the case that everything to other person is saying is true. Find the humility to acknowledge that you are not perfect and that at times you need other people to point that out.

James Hayes

#### Items of Note:

- Janet Tabor is at home with a bad sinus infection.
- Jean Pennington is doing rehab at NHC in Springfield
- Mike McPherson, who spoke last summer at VBS, was featured in the Tennessee yesterday. His wife has ALS.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, our government officials, John Kachelman, Jim Waldron, and those who are experiencing civil war around the world.

**This Morning's Sermon: "Love"**  
**Men's Meeting Tonight At 5:00; Singing Tonight At 6:00**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Simpkins, Reed

Pray: E. Walker

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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

*“Death ends a life, not a relationship.”*

*Mitch Albom*

*“It is nothing to die; it is frightful not to live.”*

*Victor Hugo*

Romans 15:13  
“Now may the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and  
peace in believing, so that  
you will abound in hope by  
the power of the Holy  
Spirit.”

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## O To Be Like Thee

I Peter 2:21 states: “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps.” In the original Greek, the word “example” comes from the idea of imitating someone’s penmanship. The teacher would write a sentence and the student would try to duplicate it. The teacher’s writing was the “example.” Peter wrote that Jesus is our example. We do our best to imitate His perfect life, although we know that our fleshly desires will often get in the way. Nonetheless, He is the only one we should try to emulate.

One of the most popular hymns in Christian music is “O To Be Like

Thee,” by Thomas Chisholm. The narrator has one desire: To be like Jesus in all things. “O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer/ This is my constant longing and prayer/ Gladly I’ll forfeit all of life’s treasures/ Jesus, thy perfect likeness to wear/ O to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art/ Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness/ Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.”

Is the image of Christ stamped on your heart? I know you are a Christian. I know that you attend worship services. And I assume you pray, read your Bible, and do your best to train your children to do what’s right. But that’s not proof of a Jesus-

stamped heart. Why? Because, even though an atheist is not a Christian, he could still do all the things you do as a Christian. He could put his body in a building on Sunday morning. He could read the Bible. He could close his eyes and say words. And he could teach his children to be good. Your life should be different. Your life should not be ritualistic. Your faith should be about more than forms. It should be a deeply held, personal faith that permeates everything you do. The compassion, love, mercy, and grace of Jesus should be demonstrated every day. If it’s not, why isn’t it? Are you striving to be more like Jesus every day?

James Hayes

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