

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Model Prayer

February 26, 2017

Issue 302

Growing up, I played a lot of pick-up basketball games. But just because I played basketball, that doesn't mean I can play like LeBron James. I've played backyard football, but that doesn't mean I can throw a football like Tom Brady. And if you've ever played golf, you can appreciate how talented the professional players are.

The apostles also felt that sense of awe when they observed Jesus's prayer life. The apostles knew how to pray. They had witnessed rabbinical prayers, read prayers in the Psalms, and had personally prayed for themselves and others since they were children. But they knew their prayer life

was not on the same level as Jesus's. His prayers had depth and purpose and conviction. His prayers were personal and serious and thoughtful. Jesus had something the apostles didn't have. So Luke 11:1 states, "It happened that while Jesus was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught His disciples."

The model prayer that Jesus gave the apostles contained four key elements that should appear in all prayers. (Note: This prayer was never intended to be recited, per se. After all, Jesus forbade repetitious prayer-Matt. 6:7).

1.) *Praise*. "Father, hallowed be your name." We should always speak to God with reverence.

2.) *Petition*. "Give us this day our daily bread." God gives us every good and perfect gift. We should acknowledge the source of these blessings.

3.) *Confession*. "Forgive us our sins." We cannot hide our sins from God. Adam taught us that lesson.

4.) *Dependence*. "Lead us not into temptation." Not only should we confess sin, but we should also pray for the courage to fight the devil every day.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Jean Pennington is in NHC in Springfield, Room 21A.
- Haley Rector is still undergoing radiation therapy for her breast cancer.
- Lauren Geery, an elementary teacher at Goodpasture, lost her baby late in the pregnancy.
- Cathey Lawson, Faye Head's sister, is having issues with Parkinson's and dementia.
- Pray for Mildred Walker and our missionaries.

This Morning's Sermon: "Kindness" Tonight's Sermon: "Different Than Darkness"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: E. Walker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Simpkins, J. Walker

Pray: Brown

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.”

*A church nursery had this Scripture on the
wall: “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be
changed” (I Cor. 15:51).*

*“When raising a child, years of Bible training
can be undone by minutes of hypocrisy.”*

Anonymous

Worship Isn't About You

If you've never said, "I didn't get anything out of worship today," you've probably heard someone else say it. That is a common refrain among modern Christians. It stems from a false premise—that worship is supposed to be an experience that stirs the emotions of the worshiper. Many see worship as therapy, entertainment, and/or a simple diversion from the stresses of life. Worship, therefore, should be designed to meet the emotional needs of the worshiper. If those needs are not met, then worship has not been a fulfilling exercise.

But the audience in worship is not the worshippers; it's Almighty God. Our only concern should be to give

God exactly what He wants—to offer praise to Him for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do for us in the future. The only way for us to know if we are giving God what He wants is to read His inspired word—the Bible—and follow the examples and commands that regulate worship. If someone cannot use Scripture to defend a particular worship practice, then we must ask, "By what or whose authority are you doing that?" Most of the time the answer to that question—if the responder is being honest—is, "I am doing this because it makes me feel good."

Someone might reject this approach to worship by saying, "Why can't

worship be emotional? Who said that a Christian's feelings cannot be stirred while worshipping?" Nobody said that. Worship is undoubtedly an emotional experience. While Peter was preaching the very first gospel sermon, people were "pierced to the heart" (Acts 2:37). But stirring the emotions should not be the *objective* of worship; it is simply a by-product of giving God what He wants.

"I did it my way" is a good line in a popular song, but it should never be the goal of Christian worship. Give God what He wants, and He will always be pleased.

James Hayes
