

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Sinner's Prayer

March 5, 2017

Issue 303

There are millions of people worldwide who have recited "The Sinner's Prayer." It is quite popular among many large Protestant denominations, including Baptists and Methodists. Its origin is unknown, but it was popularized in the early to mid-twentieth century by popular preachers like Billy Graham.

There are many versions, but the most common is this: "Dear, Lord Jesus. I know that I am a sinner. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. I want to trust and follow You as my

Lord and Savior. In Your name, Amen."

While no one would disagree with the sentiment of "The Sinner's Prayer"—the desire of someone to give himself wholly to Jesus—this prayer has given millions a false sense of security regarding their salvation. Nowhere in Scripture is a lost person told to recite a prayer in order to receive salvation; therefore, no one ever said a prayer and received salvation. So, it would be irresponsible to lead someone in a direction the Bible doesn't take them. We must do Bible things in Bible ways, especially when it comes to what one must do to be saved.

If "The Sinner's Prayer" does not make one a Christian, what does? There is no single verse that includes everything one must do to be saved. There are many verses that address salvation issues, so we must obey what is commanded in each verse in order to be obedient to God's will. We must believe/have faith (Heb. 11:6). We must confess Christ as Lord and Savior (Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37). We must repent (turn away) from our sins (II Peter 3:9; Luke 13:3). We must be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21). And we must live faithfully until death (Rev. 2:10).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Isabella Demonbruem will have surgery March 17 to have tonsils and adenoids removed.
- Jean Pennington is in NHC in Springfield, Room 21A.
- Haley Rector is still undergoing radiation therapy for her breast cancer.
- Cheatham County Mayor David McCullough is fighting aggressive cancer.
- Paula Lee is still battling leukemia.
- Debbie Simpkins has been sick.

This Morning's Sermon: "Self-Control"
Tonight's Sermon: "Where Do We Find Courage?"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Billingsley

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Gupton, J. Walker

Pray: 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

Psalms 139:13-14
“For You formed me in my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.”

“The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending, and to have those two be as close together as possible.”

George Burns

A kindergarten teacher was walking around the room admiring the children’s drawings. She asked one girl what she was drawing. “God,” she said. “But no one know what God looks like,” the teacher replied.

Without hesitation, the girl responded, “They will in a minute.”

Sometimes, Always, Never

When I was a teenager, I worked one summer at Kuppenheimer clothing store in Rivergate. I learned a lot about suits, shirts, ties...and how to offend men when I guessed that they needed a size that was much bigger than their actual size. It was the early 1990s and three-button suits were becoming popular. Three-button suits didn’t look good on “stout” men, but they worked well on tall, slender men. Nearly every time a man would select a three-button suit, he would ask, “Which buttons do I button?” Good question. The rule-of-thumb was simple: The top button was “Sometimes,” the middle button was “Always,” and the bottom button was “Never.” That was

easy for the men to remember.

In the Bible, we have the same principle. There are things we need to do sometimes, other things we should always do, and then more things we should never do. Let’s consider each group:

(1). *Sometimes*. Leisure is a good example of the “Sometimes” category. Vacationing is good here and there, but we shouldn’t “live for the weekend” (Eccl. 2:10-11). Work is also something we should do sometimes, but we shouldn’t become obsessed with our professions.

(2). *Always*. We should “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). We should not neglect worship and Bi-

ble study (Heb. 10:23-25). We should always strive to do good (Gal. 6:9). We should keep seeking the things above (Col. 3:1).

(3). *Never*. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit; therefore, we should never mistreat them (1 Cor. 6:19-20). We should never seek revenge or be overcome by evil (Rom. 12:19-21). At no point in our lives should we act selfishly (Phil. 2:3).

Someone once said, “In all things, moderation.” It’s better to say, “In all things, biblical.” Live by God’s standards, not men’s.

James Hayes
