

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Complaining

Here is a typical exchange among friends:

“Hey, buddy, how are you?”

“Well, I can’t complain.”

When I hear someone say, “I can’t complain,” I want to say, “Yes you can...and you often do.” Everyone complains, but that fact should not be used as an excuse to complain more. Complaining is not a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23), and Christians should never be known as complainers. “Be hospitable to one another without complaint” (I Peter 4:9).

We need to understand, however, that there are two distinct types of complaining. It is perfectly acceptable to complain *to God*

about the various struggles we are experiencing in life. Paul taught us to take everything to the Lord in prayer (Phil. 4:6), which would include our complaints. But it is unacceptable and sinful when we complain *about God*. The Israelites sinned when they complained about God’s provisions in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2). Adam complained that the woman God made tempted him (Gen. 3:12). Over and over again in Scripture God’s people complained that the Creator of the world didn’t do enough for them.

Here’s a challenge: The next time you talk to someone on the phone, notice how many times you com-

plain during the conversation. If you really monitor your words, I think you will realize that you complain often without a second thought. We are numb to it. It’s second nature. It’s time we fill our thoughts and words with ideas of thankfulness and joy.

“Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world” (Phil. 2:14-15).

James Hayes

March 12, 2017

Issue 304

Items of Note:

- Isabella Demonbruem will have surgery March 17 to have tonsils and adenoids removed.
- Jean Pennington is still having memory issues.
- Paula Lee and Haley Rector are still being treated for cancer.
- Many of our number have been sick lately with colds and flu.
- Remember Mildred Walker, our missionaries, and those who had property damage in the storms.

**This Morning’s Sermon: “Humility”  
Singing Tonight At 6:00 P.M.**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Walker

Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: Doug, Simpkins, J. Buchanan

Pray: Brown

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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

I Corinthians 1:10  
“Now I exhort you, brethren,  
by the name of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, that you all  
agree and that there be no  
divisions among you, but that  
you be made complete in  
the same mind and in the  
same judgment.”

*A Sunday School teacher asked her class before  
going into worship, “And why is it good that we  
stay quiet in church?” One girl answered,  
“Because people are sleeping.”*

*A father was teaching his son about Lot and  
said, “A man named Lot was warned to take his  
wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked  
back and turned into a pillar of salt.” The boy  
asked, “What happened to the flea?”*

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## The Restoration Principle

During the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, men like Martin Luther and John Calvin were part of spiritual awakening called the Reformation Movement. As the title suggests, these men were interested in reforming the Catholic Church. They objected to papal authority, the selling of indulgences, and other common Catholic practices. Luther and others contended that the Catholic Church was teaching and practicing things that had no basis in Scripture, which, in their minds, should be the only authority in Christian life. Over the following generations, millions of people left the Catholic Church and splintered into Protestant denominations. Most of these denominations

preached that salvation comes through “faith alone,” not through the observance of rituals.

We are indebted to those brave men who stood up against the largest Christian group in the world and said, “This isn’t right. This isn’t Scripture.” But they—and their millions of followers—didn’t go far enough. Scripture does not teach us simply to reform what other Christian groups might be doing; it teaches us to follow the teachings of Christ and His credentialed ambassadors (the apostles).

In Europe in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, another group of men left their denominational heritage and endeavored to restore New Testament

Christianity. These were not perfect men. They were not inspired apostles. They were simply men who urged their fellow Christians to speak where the Bible speaks, and be silent where the Bible is silent—to live their corporate church lives and their private lives within the bounds of God’s inspired word.

It is a shame that most Christian groups today are not interested in restoring New Testament Christianity. They just want to create an environment that is accommodating to the largest numbers of people. But God never commanded us to be popular; He only wants us to be faithful.

James Hayes

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