

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Unity—The Bible Way

March 26, 2017

Issue 306

Shortly before Jesus's arrest and crucifixion, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane that all His disciples would be unified (John 17:21). The apostle Paul pleaded with the Corinthians that they be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and same judgment" (I Cor. 1:10). But we can see throughout the greater Christian world today that the people who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior are far from unified. They have built walls between themselves and others for doctrinal, moral, and personal reasons. So the question is, where can we find unity? I submit that none of the popular answers to the unity question

in the Christian world have any basis in Scripture. Here are a few:

(1). "Join the church of your choice." Many people are taught that all churches are the same, so we should just shop for our favorite "type" of church, just like we shop for a new pair of shoes—try them on, see if they fit, and figure out if the cost is right. But not everyone who says, "I love Jesus" practices biblical doctrines (Matt. 7:21). Each congregation must worship in biblical ways, serve their neighbor in biblical ways, be organized in biblical ways, and teach salvation in biblical ways.

(2). "We reject denomina-

tional titles. We're just a community church." Every congregation is a community church because the congregation is made up of people from the local community. But the community church concept of we're-not-part-of-any-group-and-we-reject-labels is misleading. Every Christian group has a set of doctrines that they promote and practice. Unity isn't accomplished just by putting the word "community" on the church sign.

Unity is only accomplished when Christians agree to do Bible things in Bible ways, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Tim. 2:15).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Frieda Perry had her pace maker replaced Friday.
- Thanks to Jacob Johns for preaching last Sunday night.
- Funeral for Cladie Bell Hollis, Maime Hamilton's sister, was Wednesday afternoon.
- Carol Saling, Elizabeth Demonbreum's grandmother, is still being treated for cancer.
- Debbie Simpkins had oral surgery last week.

This Morning's Sermon: "Righteousness" Question And Answer Sermon Tonight—Current Events Theme

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Simpkins, J. Walker

Pray: Billingsley

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

Psalm 59:16

“But as for me, I shall sing of
Your strength; yes, I shall
joyfully sing of Your
lovingkindness in the
morning, for You have been
my stronghold and refuge in
the day of my distress.”

*“Salvation was not bought by Jesus’s fist, but by
His nail-pierced hands; not by muscle but by
love; not by vengeance but by forgiveness; not
by force but by sacrifice.”*

A.M. Tozer

*“We sinned for no other reason but an incom-
prehensible lack of love, and He saved us for no
other reason but by an incomprehensible excess
of love.”*

Peter Kreeft

Forsaking The Assembly

There are two extreme positions when it comes to worship and Bible study attendance. On one extreme there are those who believe that worship attendance is the core demonstration of faith. Missing any service of the church is the ultimate sin and shows that the guilty party cares more about worldly things than matters of faith. On the other extreme there are some who believe that church attendance doesn’t matter at all. Worship isn’t more important than serving others, so if I skip an opportunity to serve, it’s just like skipping a worship service. And so on.

So what is the solution? Is church attendance the ultimate sign of faith,

or is it completely insignificant in the eyes of God? It really comes down to this: Do you see church attendance as a “both/and” situation or a “either/or” situation. If you see it as “either/or,” then you make a choice every week *whether or not* you will worship or study the Bible with your congregation. You will either worship *or* watch the game. You will either worship *or* go hunting. You will either worship *or* sleep in. Leisure and worship are both good things, and you will choose one or the other each week; therefore, other things will take precedence over worship on a regular basis.

Or you could be a “both/and” person. You will *always* attend services, as long as you are physically able to do so. You will worship *and* watch the game later. You will worship *and* go hunting on another day. And so on. You don’t see worship as an inconvenience—you see it as a privilege and a “want to.” You understand that assembling with your congregation four hours a week is not a burden.

If you are constantly making excuses for why you do not attend worship services, you need to reevaluate your faith. Is it the ultimate mark of a Christian? No. But is it a sign of faith? Absolutely.

James Hayes
