

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## The Greatest Need In America

**April 2, 2017**

**Issue 307**

We've been thinking much about the state of our country. Economic woes, fear of enemies, health concerns, natural disasters, spiritual decline, and confused morality call for our attention; and we continually ask what God's will is for this country. We are perplexed but not surprised that the fastest growing religious group in America is the group that identifies themselves as having "no religion." According to the American Religious Identification Survey taken in 2001, adults who do not

subscribe to any religious identification has more than doubled from 14.3 million in 1990 to 29.4 million in 2001; their proportion has grown from just eight percent of the total in 1990 to over fourteen percent in 2001. Only 77 percent of Americans now claim to be Christians. Many of those who claim to be Christians have convictions far different from the teaching of the New Testament. For instance, the Pew Forum recently released a survey saying that 65 percent of American Chris-

tians say that many religions can lead to eternal life, a fact that contradicts Jesus' plain statement in John 14:6 (see also Acts 4:12; Ephesians 4:4-6). What America needs most is the gospel, the old story of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. That divine story will lead them to change their hearts and lives in repentance and to unite with Christ in baptism.

Phil Sanders

### Items of Note:

- Jean Pennington is now at home.
- Sympathy is extended to Patty Walker on the loss of her aunt, Pat Heathman. Funeral was yesterday.
- Leon Higgins, lifelong friend of John Hayes, died Monday in Ohio.
- Carol Saling, Elizabeth Demonbreum's grandmother, is still being treated for cancer.
- Remember Paula Lee, Haley Rector, and Mildred Walker in prayer.

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## This Morning's Sermon: "Holiness" Hillcrest Nursing Home Worship At 2:30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Gupton, Reed

Pray: Baker

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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

Psalm 116:1-2  
"I love the Lord, because He  
hears my voice and my  
supplications. Because He  
has inclined His ear to me,  
therefore I shall call upon  
Him as long as I live."

*We should never base our evangelism on "what ifs" and "maybes." For instance, we should not say, "What if someone died on the way to be baptized? Would God save him?" Rather, we should teach what the Bible says about baptism. Baptism is an essential part of our salvation, in response to Jesus' work on the cross. We should never be arrogant and say, "God's commands on baptism apply to everyone but me."*

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## God's Grace

After these forty-two years of ministry, I have learned two important things. First, God's servants are totally dependent upon the grace of God. God's grace or favor provides far more than forgiveness. God shapes and molds us into the kind of people that He wishes us to be. In Philippians 1:6 Paul wrote, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Yes, God expects us to use the talents and abilities

He gives us, but we should never forget that every good gift comes from Him (James 1:17). Paul urges us, "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13). Second, we are wholly dependent upon the kindness of God to provide for our needs

and the needs of this ministry. God does not send us into His vineyard empty-handed and ill-equipped. God's grace abounds so that we have all sufficiency in all things at all times for every good deed. When faithful Christians ask, God answers; when they seek, He helps them find; and when they knock, the Lord opens the door.

Phil Sanders

Author of "Adrift"

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