

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Meaning of Life

April 16, 2017

Issue 308

Christopher Hitchens was a notable social critic, journalist, and atheist until his death from esophageal cancer in December 2011. In his later years, he was mostly known for his full-throated defense of atheism as he traveled the country debating religious groups of all kinds. In one debate he was asked, "If God does not exist, what then is the purpose of life?" Hitchens answered, "I can only speak for myself. What cheers me up? Well, gloating over the misery of others [probably sarcastic—JH]. And then there's irony...which is the cream in the coffee. And that's pretty much it."

And there you have it. A man who spent a large per-

centage of his life mocking the notion of God can only come up with gloating and irony as the things that give his life meaning. How shallow. How selfish. How meaningless. But it's a predictable answer from someone who cannot see the God who made him.

Christopher Hitchens is not the only person who sees life in its most trivial form. There are even Christians who become so consumed with consumerism and sold out for the secular that they too have a difficult time finding real, sustainable, fulfilling purpose in life.

Satan will always try to convince you that the things of

God are stupid. He will tell you that God hates you. He will tempt you with momentary pleasures. He will lie to you every day. He will tell you that you are just a mass of cells with no inherent value. He will keep doing these things until he has you. He wants to devour you (I Peter 5:8). But don't let him. If you resist him, he will flee from you (James 4:7).

Remember that God made you (Gen. 1:26), Jesus bought you (I Cor. 6:20), and that real meaning in life comes from keeping God's commandments (Eccl. 12:13).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Beverly Nicholson will have 20 weeks of chemo followed by surgery.
- Area-wide singing April 28, 7:00.
- Church building cleaning, April 29th, 8:00 a.m.
- Easter Egg hunt tonight after services.
- Cody Krantz, young man at Joelton church, has large infection at base of his skull.
- Kyle Reed's classmate, Alec Scott, lost his house to a fire.

This Morning's Sermon: "Resurrection" Building Fund Contribution, April 30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Hovis

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: Doug, J. Demonbreum, E. 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

Romans 6:23
“For the wages of sin is
death, but the free gift of
God is eternal life in Christ
Jesus our Lord.”

A Sunday School teacher was teaching the class about how God used Adam’s rib to create woman. Johnnie was particularly fascinated by the story. A few days later he was at home lying on his side. His mother asked him what was wrong. He said, “My side hurts. I think I’m going to have a wife.”

Convenient Faith

In Jesus day the Passover was observed on the first full moon following vernal equinox. In modern times—since that first full moon varies depending on times zones—Easter is considered the first Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon. Therefore, the date of Easter changes each year. Regardless if you consider Easter a “special day” in the life of a Christian (the word “Easter” only appears in the King James Bible—Acts 12:4), we do know that Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples late Thursday night of the week He was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead. His resurrection happened on the Sunday following Passover.

Someone once said, “There are Christians and then there are Chreasters—people who attend worship services only on Christmas and Easter.” While the term is meant as an insult, there is truth in the statement nonetheless: some Christians pay particular attention to Christ on December 25 and Easter. But before we turn our noses up at the “Chreasters,” let’s look in the mirror. Are there times when you rush to see Jesus while ignoring Him at other times? I think we could all answer “Yes.”

Do you take time to pray when you are facing trials but forget to pray when times are good? Do you pray for others when they are hurting but

forget to thank God when they are joyful? Do you push God out of your thoughts when you are on vacation, thinking that it’s okay to take a vacation from worship if you are out of town? Do you read your Bible only when you are at worship or Bible study? In each of these scenarios, the Lord and His will are a matter of convenience. Convenient faith is not just an issues for the Chreasters.

Without the resurrection of Christ, our faith is in vain (I Cor. 15:14). Any reminder of this fact is a good thing. And when we are reminded, we are more likely to have a consistent faith, not a convenient one.

James Hayes
