

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Feel Free To Say It

June 11, 2017

Issue 315

According to most surveys, approximately 80 percent of Americans identify as Christian. We know, however, that within that 80 percent is a wide range of beliefs, practices, and traditions. So if we hear a phrase that's used widely among denominations, our instinct is to reject it. Not only that, but when we hear statements about faith that seem a bit "untraditional," we again instantly doubt the claim.

Consider these statements:

(1). *"I was saved on that day."* In churches of Christ, we typically say, "I was baptized on that day." But why don't we say, "I was saved on such and such day"? Do we

not teach that we contact the blood of Christ at baptism? Do we not teach that the Lord adds us to the church at baptism? So why should we be afraid to say that we were saved on a certain day?

(2). *"I hope they fail."* Some think this statement flies in the face of love—wanting the best for everyone. But failing is exactly what some people need to do. They are willfully sinning. They are deliberately living in contradiction to God's word. They need stop. And the only way they can come to their senses is to fail in their pursuits.

(3). *"The Lord can't help me."* This shocking statement is

both true and untrue, depending on the context. In many ways, the Lord can help us. He is our Lord, Savior, Advocate, Friend, and ultimate example on how to live life. But He cannot force you to do anything. He cannot control your life. We must take responsibility for our own actions.

When you hear something that seems strange, don't immediately reject it. Consider everything carefully. There might be truth in something you always thought was a lie.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Maime Hamilton had gall bladder surgery Wednesday. She is at home recovering.
- Our VBS will be combined with Coopertown on July 22 from 9:00 am-3 pm. Chet and James will teach the adult class.
- Our Gospel Meeting with Coopertown will be July 23-26 at 7:00 pm each night. We will have regular services on that Sunday morning. Ice cream supper after services on July 23.

This Morning's Sermon: "Elders/Deacons" Men's Meeting Tonight At 5:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: M. Smith

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: J. Demonbreum, J. Walker, J. Buchanan

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

Ecclesiastes 5:2

“Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few.”

“Tragically, some people believe they are going to heaven when they die because a few drops of water were sprinkled over their heads a few weeks after their birth. They have no personal faith, have never made a personal decision, and are banking on a hallow ceremony to save them.

How absurd!”

Max Lucado

Lust—Whose Fault Is It?

Someone recently posted the following statement on Facebook: “No matter how any person is dressed—whether “revealing” or not—lust arises from within the human heart, and the one who lusts cannot blame the other for their lust...Once we recognize this, we can deal with our hearts rather than blaming the other person.” Throughout my childhood, I was taught that girls/women should be covered up—no low necklines or short skirts/dresses—because they should not be enticing men to lust. Boys/men were told not to look upon any woman they know as a sexual object. I’m sure you were taught the same things. But are there deeper issues at play?

First, let’s define the word. Lust is “an overwhelming desire or craving, particularly associated with sexual desire” (Merriam-Webster). Nobody forces someone else to have a lust for money. Nobody forces someone else to have a lust for power. But no one should have such obsessions. This sin was so serious it was included in the Ten Commandments: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house...or anything that belongs to your neighbor” (Ex. 20:17). The Bible also is clear that all people—not just women—should project modesty to the world (I Tim. 2:9; 4:12).

In any situation, each person is responsible for themselves. If I am

driving a car, I cannot control what another driver might do. All I can do is obey the traffic laws and pay attention. If another car slams into me, that’s not my fault. The same is true when it comes to lust and who responsible for the lusting. A man should not become sexually obsessed with a coworker, neighbor, or friend, regardless of how that woman might be dressed. Likewise, a woman should not dress in a sexually provocative manner. She can control what she wears; she can’t control what another man thinks.

Matthew Henry once wrote: “Man sins, but devils tempt to sin.” Let’s do our best not to sin or be devils.

James Hayes
