

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

What Matters Most

July 9, 2017

Issue 319

Imagine being the apostle Paul. You're a well-educated Pharisee. You have defended the Jewish faith your entire life. When thousands of Jews began following a man from Nazareth who claimed to be divine, you accused them of blasphemy and threw them into prison at the behest of the ruling class. But then the Lord appeared to you on your way to Damascus. Your life changed that day. You then became Christianity's biggest defender. You traveled the world preaching Christ, baptizing believers, mentoring preachers, and establishing churches. So, which part of Paul's story mattered most? If you were him, where

would you start? Paul told his story many times. He talked about his persecution of the church (I Tim. 1:13). He talked about his conversion (Acts 22). He talked about his hope in his future reward (II Tim. 4:8). But one thing mattered more than any of that. Paul made it clear: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3). He also stated, "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). Of all the stories Paul told, none of them mattered more than the story of Jesus' death of

the cross.

What matters most to you? Money? Relationships? Advancement at work? Attention? Christians will say that their relationship with God matters more than anything else. Is that what you say? If it does, how would the world know it? Do the people in your world know that Jesus takes first place in your life? If not, why not? Don't say the word "Christian" if you are not willing to *live* the word "Christian."

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matt. 6:33).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Building Fund contribution July 30.
- Ricky Mayo continues to recover from hip surgery.
- Make a goal to invite 3 people to our Gospel Meeting on July 23-26. Specific invitations are more effective than general invitations.
- Building fund contribution on July 30. Continue to be generous each week in your giving. Every little bit helps us do the Lord's work better.

This Morning's Sermon: "Worship" Singing Tonight At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Gupton

Pray: Michael Smith

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

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

Pray: E. Walker

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 5:12
“For it is You who blesses the
righteous man, O Lord, You
surround him with favor as
with a shield.”

VBS: Saturday, July 22

9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Coopertown church of Christ (adult class also)

Gospel Meeting: July 23-26

7:00 p.m. each night, including Sunday

Don Loftis will be the speaker

Ice Cream on Sunday night after church

Sunday and Monday night at Coopertown

Monday and Tuesday night at Pleasant View

What Matters Least

We established in the first article that your relationship with Jesus matters more than anything else. On the long list of things you care about, Jesus is in first place. But what should be on the other end of that list? What are things that you should care about the least?

(1). *Our own self-interests.* Let me be clear: You *should* care about yourself. Jesus said you should love your neighbor as you love yourself—He assumed you knew how to properly love yourself. So when I am talking about self-interests, I am talking about preferences and being self-serving. When your will conflicts with God’s will or your neighbor’s will, you should always concede to

them. Jesus prayed that God’s will would be done in His life (Luke 22:42), and Paul wrote that we should consider others as more important than ourselves (Phil. 2:3-4).

(2). *What you can’t control.* Too much time and energy are used on things you can’t control. Wringing your hands about the weather doesn’t prevent thunderstorms. Staying up all night thinking about what *might* happen tomorrow doesn’t change the course of events. It is no wonder that Jesus commanded us not to worry about the necessities of life, since worrying doesn’t add days to our lives.

(3). *Destructive criticism.* Criticism is

not sinful. Criticism is simply an evaluation of a situation. But not all criticism is helpful. Criticism should only be done when the criticizer removes the “plank” from his own eye (Matt. 7:3), and criticism should be done in a way that ultimately improves a situation (Eph. 4:29). So, if someone gives you destructive criticism—the type that is condescending, belittling, or just mean—ignore it. It is emotionally and physically debilitating to allow a destructive criticizer into your mind.

Let God be God. Do what you can do and remember that the God who made the world hears your prayers.

James Hayes
