

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

All Have Sinned, But...

July 16, 2017

Issue 320

Romans 3:23 states: "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." That is a matter of fact. It is not an excuse. It does not mean that everyone will die in his/her sins. It simply means what it means: Every single person who has ever lived as violated God's will.

Unfortunately, this verse has been used as a spiritual crutch for some people. They add things to the verse that are not in the original text. For instance...

(1). *For all have sinned...so I should not feel guilty when I sin.* We are living in a feelings-based culture. Whether it's church activities or personal decision-making, our culture is ob-

essed with how things makes us feel. "If it feels good, do it" is the mantra for daily living. "If it feels good, God approves it" is the mantra for church activities. If there is doubt about whether something is wrong if it feels good, many people say, "Well, everybody sins!"

(2). *For all have sinned...so God sympathizes with me when I sin.* Sin does not bring out God's mercy; it provokes His wrath. All sin is a violation of His will, and all sin must be punished (Rom. 6:23). We receive the mercy and grace of God when we confess our sins, not when we commit our sins.

(3). *For all have sinned...but God loves me anyway.* There is no doubt that God loves us even in our sinful state (Rom. 5:8; John 3:16). But just because God loves us, that doesn't mean He approves our actions. A father loves his children unconditionally, but he still grieves when his children misbehave. He doesn't celebrate their rebellion.

Someone once said, "It's not that we think of sin too much. It's that we don't think about sin enough." When we think of sin, our goal should be to avoid it, not make excuses so we can practice it.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Randy Baker will have knee replacement surgery on July 19.
- Ricky Mayo is still recovering from hip surgery.
- Meeting today after morning worship at Coopertown for all those teaching VBS. Pizza provided.
- 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: "Kingdom"
Tonight's Sermon: "Differences Do Not Always Require Division"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: D. Demonbreum, E. Walker, Brown

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

Proverbs 21:2
“Every man’s way is right in
his own eyes, but the Lord
weighs the hearts.”

VBS: Saturday, July 22

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

*Coopertown church of Christ (adult class begins
at 9:30)*

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

Tuesday and Wednesday night at Pleasant View

Are You Broken?

The truism that states, “If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it” may be true with some things, but not the human heart ([Psalm 51:17](#)). If our hearts aren’t broken, they need to be.

Have you ever heard of “Kintsugi?” Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with a “glue” made of gold. Rather than throwing away a vase, bowl, or cup that had been dropped and broken, these items can be repaired by gluing the pieces back together with gold. The repair can actually make the piece of pottery more beautiful and more valuable than it was before it was broken.

On a personal level, I have learned

the value of brokenness. For the majority of my life, everything was easy. The biggest challenges I faced throughout my youth seem trifling to me today. My life, along with my wife, had a fairy-tale beginning, but eventually we began to experience “breaks” (e.g. the miscarriage of a child; the death of my father-in-law, mother-in-law, and my dad; and most shattering, the choices of one of our children).

These breaks, and countless others, could cause one to retreat, give up, and become bitter. They hurt (present tense), but my wife and I refuse to allow our life together to be little more than useless, broken shards of pottery littering the floor.

No, instead, we’ve given the broken pieces to the Lord who has put us back together, I believe, even more valuable in his service than before ([Psalm 147:3](#)). The breaks haven’t been desired, but they have been profitable in the hands of “The Potter” ([Romans 9:20-23](#)).

If you’ve been where we’ve been; if you are where we are; if your life has been shattered by loss, disappointment, and sin, don’t give up ([Galatians 6:9](#)). God can do amazing things with the pieces of your life. In fact, he can make you more useful and beautiful than you were before you were broken.

Steve Higginbotham
