

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Lying To The Church

July 30, 2017

Issue 322

Two of the seven things that are an abomination to the Lord involve lying (Prov. 6:16-19). Ephesians 4:25 states that we should put falsehood away and speak the truth. John revealed that nothing unclean will enter heaven, especially those who practice "abomination and lying" (Rev. 21:27). So it is strange when Christians are quick to lie...to other Christians. I concede that it is not a common practice, but when it happens, it has devastating effects. Consider these scenarios where Christians lie to one another:

(1). *When they leave a congregation.* In an attempt to keep the peace, some Chris-

tians will tell their elders or ministers a less than honest reason why they have chosen to leave the congregation. "Nothing is wrong" often means "Something is wrong, but I just don't want to say what it is." If there is a problem, church leaders need to know what it is so that possible solutions can be explored.

(2). *When they are being counseled.* Sometimes Christians will meet with the elders or preacher to discuss personal matters. Unfortunately, the truth is not always presented in those situations. The Christian might simply use that meeting as a way to "vent" about someone they don't like—presenting themselves as a

guilt-free, innocent party.

(3). *When they discuss their church involvement.* "I'm a member at \_\_\_\_\_," a Christian says. "I'm there all the time. Great church." But when you talk to someone else from that church, you find out there is some exaggeration in that statement.

Jerrie Barber once said, "I long for a place where Christians can come together and tell the truth." Honesty should be valued by Christians, not avoided when it might hurt.

"Buy the truth and do not sell it" (Prov. 23:23).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Sympathy is extended to Leigh Smith on the loss of her father, Clayton Higginbotham. His funeral was yesterday in Mississippi.
- We will have a fellowship meal tonight after worship.
- Thank you to everyone who made our Super Saturday and Gospel Meeting a success. It was a great week. It was good to fellowship with our Coopertown neighbors.

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## This Morning's Sermon: "Faith" Building Fund Contribution Today

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Reed, Billingsley

Pray: Gupton

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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

Psalms 139:23-24  
"Search me, O God, and  
know my heart; try me and  
know my anxious thoughts;  
and see if there be any  
hurtful way in me, and lead  
me in the everlasting way."

*"You may delay, but time will not, and lost time  
is never found again."*

*Benjamin Franklin*

*"A year from now you may wish you had started  
today."*

*Karen Lamb*

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## What Animal Are You?

After taking a 15-question online test, I found out that if I were an animal, I would be a Great Plains Wolf. The caption read: "You are a loyal person to your friends and family. You are brave when you have to be and you are a team player." I have no idea how the designers of that test arrived at that conclusion, but I know that being a wolf was not what Jesus wanted from His disciples.

When Jesus sent out His disciples in what we call the Limited Commission, He said, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves" (Matt. 10:16). Jesus named four animals in that verse,

three possess characteristics that Christians should emulate.

(1). *Sheep*. Jesus is the Good Shepherd (John 10:14). We are His sheep. We should follow Him as if our lives depended on it. Why? Because if we stray from Him, dangerous wolves will devour us. We'll lose our souls. We can't leave the Shepherd.

(2). *Serpents*. Jesus wants us to be shrewd, which Oxford Dictionary defines as "having or showing sharp powers of judgment." Removing yourself from society will not help you develop strong powers of judgment. Isolating yourself and your children from the world will not help you withstand the schemes of

the devil. We should be in the world, not of the world. We should engage the world around us, so that we can know where the dangerous places are. We cannot defeat our spiritual enemy if we do not know how he operates.

(3). *Doves*. A white dove is a symbol of purity and peace. As we develop our powers of judgment, we cannot participate in "the unfruitful deeds of darkness" (Eph. 5:11). We should keep our hearts and minds pure. Innocence is in short supply these days, but it should be found among Christians.

James Hayes

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