

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Grace To You

The apostle Paul begins and ends every one of his 13 letters by extending grace to his readers. He didn't want them to be condemned, mistreated, unloved, or misguided. He wanted them to experience the grace of God every day of their lives. Personally, I am thankful that I am saved by God's grace—if for no other reason than the other alternatives to salvation are impossible for me to follow.

One alternative would be to follow the law of Moses to perfection; therefore, I would have no need to be punished for violating the law. But James says that that's not so easy: "For whoever keeps the whole

law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all" (James 2:10). So, just one violation of the law means I would be condemned as a law breaker.

The other alternative would be for me to abide in the new law...and keep it perfectly. I could follow everything Jesus and His apostles taught and assure my place in heaven. But Scripture teaches that no one has ever—or will ever—do that. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). So, no matter how moral I might be, the fact remains that I have violated God's will, and I deserve God's wrath.

So grace is the only way for

me to be saved. It's my only option. Since all have sinned, and since our good works can never cover our sins, the only way to access God is through the atoning work of Christ. He took the punished we deserved. The wrath of God fell upon Him. Now we can stand before God clean. Now our sins are washed away.

"He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (II Cor. 5:21). May we all live in the wonderful grace of God!

James Hayes

October 1, 2017

Issue 330

Items of Note:

- There will be a special contribution today for Disaster Relief. Designate your relief check on "memo" line, along with regular contribution.
- Beverly Nicholson had surgery Friday.
- Kim Waller is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Joey Spann went home from the hospital Thursday. His wife is still in.
- Frieda Perry is recovering from oral surgery.

This Morning's Sermon: "Worry" Hillcrest Nursing Home Service At 2:30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Garrett

Pray: Smith

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Brown, Reed

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

James 1:12

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, ‘I used everything you gave me.’”

Erma Bombeck

“If you die in an elevator, be sure you push the up button.”

Sam Levenson

Are God's Promises Conditional?

Most contracts are conditional: if one side meets certain conditions, the other side must meet their conditions. It's transactional. In Latin it's called "quid pro quo"—I'll scratch your back if you'll scratch mine. But is that how God operates? Do we have a transactional relationship with Him? Are His promises conditional?

The answer is simple: Some are conditional, and some aren't. Consider Psalm 81:10: "I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt; open your mouth wide and I will fill it." If you stopped reading right there, you'd think that no matter what we do, God will fill our mouths. But don't take the verse

out of context. The psalmist continues: "But My people did not listen to My voice, and Israel did not obey Me. So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their heart, to walk in their own devices" (81:11-12). God's guidance and blessings were always available to Israel, but they refused to walk in God's ways.

Remember when Jesus said that we should pray for our "daily bread," an allusion to Israel's daily provision of manna in the wilderness? Does that mean that God will fill our cabinets every morning with all the food we need for a day, then refill it by the next morning? Nope. Bread doesn't grow on trees. God supplies the ingredients for bread. But we must

combine the ingredients to make the bread.

Finally, consider Philippians 4:19: "And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Paul didn't say that God will supply all your wants, dreams, ambitions, and goals. He didn't say God would smooth every path. He said that *in Christ* we would be blessed with every *need*. Spiritual needs are not met outside of Christ. We must meet God's conditions in order to receive those blessings. "Oh that My people would listen to Me, that Israel would walk in My ways!" (Psalm 81:13).

James Hayes
