

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Are You Unequally Yoked?

October 8, 2017

Issue 331

Most Christians know II Corinthians 6:14 by the King James Version: "Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness and unrighteousness? And what communion hath light and darkness?" The New American Standard renders the first part of the verse as, "Do not be bound together with unbelievers..." Many evangelicals have narrowly applied this verse to marriage, stating that Christians should not marry non-Christians. But is that the only lesson Paul was teaching through inspiration of the Spirit?

The concept of being "unequally yoked" comes from the earliest chapters

of Scripture. We see in the creation account that God created things in an orderly way, to be used in an orderly manner: each thing was created "after its kind." This concept was mandated in the law. An ox and a donkey were not to plow together (Deut. 22:10). Certain fabrics should not be blended (Deut. 22:11). Humans should not have sexual relations with animals or someone of the same gender. Everything was created for a purpose and should be used only for that purpose.

Beyond the greater theological context, we must understand the immediate context of the Corinthian letters. Corinthian Chris-

tians were living in a hedonistic society. The phrase "to live a Corinthian lifestyle" meant one lived without any moral standard. Since many first century Christians believed that the body and the spirit were separate, they needed to be taught that what they did with their bodies affected their souls. II Corinthians 6:14 can be applied to many areas of life. Our associations—whether they be in business or relationships—should benefit our faith, not detract from it. As Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:33: "Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals.'"

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- We celebrate the baptism of Molly McKnight! She was baptized by James last Tuesday afternoon.
- Beverly Nicholson received a good report after her surgery. No IV chemo is needed. Just radiation and chemo pill.
- Sympathy extended to Maime Hamilton on the loss of her brother-in-law, Deville Harris.
- \$2010 was collected last week for Disaster Relief.

This Morning's Sermon: "Worry"
Men's Meeting At 5:00; Singing Tonight At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Doug, E. Walker, J. Buchanan

Pray: Baker

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

Hebrews 13:16
“And do not neglect doing
good and sharing, for with
such sacrifices God is
pleased.”

*“Too many people spend money they haven’t
earned, to buy things they don’t want, to im-
press people they don’t like.”*

Will Rogers

*“Wealth consists not in having great posses-
sions, but in having few wants.”*

Epictetus

Are God’s Promises Conditional?

“I don’t need formal education. I have common sense.” Have you ever heard someone say that? Or, “I can read. I don’t need anybody to teach me the Bible. I have common sense. I know what the Bible says”? I think we have all heard statements like that. But is it good to lean on common sense in all areas of life, including Bible study?

Think about it: Hundreds of years ago, common sense meant that you believed the earth was flat; after all, if you keep walking, you’re always walking straight—your body will not turn downward as if you were on a sphere. Later, common sense meant that you believed leeches should be applied to the skin so they could

suck poisons out of the body. In each instance, common sense was grossly incorrect. Science has taught us that the earth is, in fact, a sphere, and leeches cannot cure diseases.

It’s one thing to trust common sense too much in areas of science, but it’s another thing when it limits our understanding of Scripture. Someone could look at the organization of the Bible and assume the books are arranged chronologically, but they’re not. Someone else could think that the King James Bible was the first English Bible, but it wasn’t. Without an understanding of apocalyptic literature, someone could have wild theories as to the interpretation of Daniel, Ezekiel, and Revelation.

first chapter of Proverbs states, “A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel” (Prov. 1:5). Later, “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding” (Prov. 2:6). Never reject God’s instruction. Do not be naïve concerning the things of God.

“How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold” (Prov. 3:13-14).

James Hayes
