

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Balanced Doctrine, Part Two

October 29, 2017

Issue 334

Last week I wrote about having a balanced doctrine by not focusing on one particular doctrine to the exclusion of other relevant doctrines. For instance, when studying issues related to salvation, one should not hold up all verses related to faith while ignoring passages on baptism, repentance, or confession.

I want to continue that line of thinking by addressing another common problem in Bible study: removing mercy and grace from matters of obedience. To be “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (I Cor. 15:58) does not mean that we should be heartless.

One can believe that “if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either” (II Thess. 3:10) without being unkind to those who have no job. It is possible to teach that “whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery” (Matt. 19:9) and not treat divorced people as second class, discarded Christians.

For some, “sound doctrine” comes with a raised nose, a stern look, and a wagging finger. It comes with condescension and disdain. It’s holier-than-thou and unloving. But the Bible does not teach that when we hold fast to God’s word we should create hostility be-

tween us and the lost or erring.

Think of it this way: Jesus taught that our treatment of the less fortunate would be considered at judgment (Matt. 25:31-46). Jesus wondered if we had visited those in prison. So, Jesus wants us to associate with criminals—presumably by encouraging and teaching—but there are some Christians who will completely disassociate themselves from an erring brother or sister in Christ, even after repentance has happened.

Always “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15), demonstrating the teaching and compassion of Christ.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Trunk or Treat will be tonight after evening worship. We will provide pizza and drinks.
- Building Fund Contribution today. All the money collected will be added to the project.
- Kim Waller is feeling better
- Beverly Nicholson is beginning pill-form chemo and radiation.
- Maime’s Hamilton’s nephew, Greg White, died last week.

This Morning’s Sermon: “Grief” Tonight’s Sermon: “A Constant Dripping”

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: John Hayes

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Gupton, Hovis

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

Hebrews 12:11
“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”

Edith Sitwell

“Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale.”

Lauren DeStefano

Remove Christianity...Then What?

Try to imagine American culture without any Christian words, churches, or symbols. What's more, imagine our culture without any business or charity that explicitly operates from a belief in Jesus. No Christian schools. No charity-based hospitals like St. Jude in Memphis. No massive amounts of food, clothing, and shelter going to natural disaster victims. No “In God We Trust” on money or anything else. Remove all the churches. Ban all the Christian adoption agencies, soup kitchens, clothing rooms, and domestic violence shelters. Take all the references to God out of all the patriotic music on July 4. Christianity is pervasive in American culture,

even if it is not always noticed.

But there are many atheists who would prefer a Christianity-free world. But what kind of world would that be? Once we remove everything listed above, what's left? The poor and indigent would suffer immeasurably. Government would grow exponentially in order to absorb the services Christianity had previously provided. Pulpits that once taught compassion and grace would be silent, leaving a vacuum for the atheist agenda—an agenda based on evolution, the elevation of self, and the degradation of higher moral laws. We would have a society that would resemble the former Soviet Union, where evangelism was

banned and total devotion to the state was compulsory.

Batsell Barrett Baxter once said that if you look around the world at where Christianity has been rejected or where Christianity has not been spread, you will see a society that mistreats women, children, and the poor. He said that over 50 years ago, but it is still true today. When Christianity is taught and practiced, society improves. When Christianity is rejected, silenced, or belittled, society drifts toward moral relativism, where every man is his own god.

Continue to proclaim the name of Jesus. It will improve everyone's life.

James Hayes
