

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Can You Do “All Things”?

November 26, 2017

Issue 338

Philippians 4:13 is one of the most misused verses in the Bible. You know it well: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Taken out of context, it seems like Paul is teaching that you can do anything you want to do as long as you have enough faith. That’s why this verse is popular among athletes. They read that verse and think “accomplishment.” But in context, Paul is not referring to accomplishment at all. He is teaching a lesson on contentment.

Philippians was written during Paul’s first Roman imprisonment around the year 61. The Philippian church, which had begun when Paul visited there on

his second missionary journey, sent supplies to Paul by a man named Epaphroditus. He was thankful for their interest in him, and he was impressed by Epaphroditus’s dedication (Phil. 2:25-30). With that in mind, he closed his short epistle with a reflection on the highs and lows of life. He wrote, “I know how to get along with humble means, and I know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both having abundance and suffering need” (Phil. 4:12). Then he wrote verse 13.

You cannot do everything you *want* to do. God did

not endow you with super-human abilities. We are all limited. Paul simply stated that no matter what life might offer, he could make it with Jesus’s strength. He refused to let his circumstances dictate his faithfulness.

Whether rich or poor, healthy or sick, young or old, God’s strength is available to you. You might not accomplish every goal you set, but that is okay: God will be with you in your defeats as much as He will be with you in your victories.

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you...” (James 4:8).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- “His Word” is the new devotional book for 2018. You can order them on thejenkinsinstitute.com. They are \$6.99 this year.
- Our Christmas dinner will be December 9 at 4:00. Sign up on the back wall.
- Sign up on the back wall for supplies for our Christmas bags for Hillcrest Nursing Home.
- Pray for Mildred Walker, Jennifer Watts, Beverly Nicholson.

Morning Sermon: “Redeem” Tonight’s Sermon: “Four Lies Society Tells”

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Gupton, Smith

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

Titus 2:11-12
“For the grace of God has
appeared, bringing
salvation to all men,
instructing us to deny
ungodliness and worldly
desires and to live sensibly,
righteously and godly in the
present age.”

*“Be encouraged. Hold Your head up high and
know that God is in control and has a plan for
you. Instead of focusing on all the bad, be
thankful for all the good.”*

Germany Kent

*“You may break the clods, you may sow your
seeds, but what can you do without the rain? As
absolutely needful is divine grace.”*

Charles Spurgeon

Biblical Giving

You have probably noticed that within “the law of liberty”—the New Testament—there are few specific details on how to live out your faith. That makes sense. Cultures change. Societies are different. But no matter what generation you might be living in or where you might be living, the New Testament gives us principles to live by. For example, there are many principles that guide your financial giving.

(1). *Your giving should be cheerful* (II Cor. 9:7). Are you impressed when somebody reluctantly gives you a gift—a “have to” gift? Of course not. The attitude that comes with the gift is often as meaningful as the gift itself. Your gifts to God should be a

demonstration of the joy you have in Him.

(2). *Your giving should be purposeful* (II Cor. 9:7). Your personal spending should not be wasteful. You are more content with your possessions if you have carefully planned each purchase. When you give to God, you should be even more purposeful. Does your bank account reflect purposeful giving? Does the collection basket get neglected on Sunday because you overspent on yourself on Saturday? Has your giving increased as your income increased?

(3). *Your giving should be generous* (II Cor. 9:6). Under the old law, the people were commanded to tithe—to

give ten percent of all their income to provide for various services. We do not have such commands under the law of liberty. We are only commanded to be generous. In essence, the old law created a ceiling for giving, while the new law creates a floor. When you give, do not think mathematics—think sacrifice.

Your giving should not be confined to the collection basket on Sunday. You should be a cheerful, generous giver whenever the need arises. By doing so, you will reflect the life of Christ, who was a generous, sacrificial giver every day of His life.

James Hayes
