

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Hypocrisy

December 17, 2017

Issue 341

K. Wuest wrote, "Christianity requires that believers should be open and above-board. They should be themselves. Their lives should be like an open book, easily read." When a Christian's beliefs and speech does not match his actions, he is called a hypocrite. The English word "hypocrite" comes from the ancient Greek word "hypocrites," which means "acting under a mask." Actors in the ancient Greek and Roman theaters would often wear masks so that they could perform several roles in the same play. Same person...different characters.

Life is not a stage. God did not call you to be a per-

former. You should not "act" like a Christian, which suggests that when no one is looking you can stop acting and be yourself. Jesus addressed this issue often. Matthew 6:1: "Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven" (emphasis mine, JH). To the supremely hypocritical Pharisees He said, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15). And again in Matthew 23:27: "...for you are

like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness."

God knows that you will not be morally perfect. He knows that you will fall short time and time again. But He expects you to be authentic. To live by faith means to live for Christ, not for the glory and recognition of men.

Don't put on a show. Don't wear a mask. Be the person God made you to be. "...fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person" (Eccl. 12:13).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Beverly Nicholson is about halfway through radiation treatment.
- "His Word" is the new devotional book for 2018. You can order them on thejenkinsinstitute.com. Search under "TJI Store." They are \$6.99.
- Mildred Walker has been moved back to Hillcrest Nursing Home.
- Janet Tabor has been sick lately.
- Happy Haven Children's Home contribution today.

Morning Sermon: "Father"...Evening Sermon: "The Value of Discipline"
There will be no evening service next Sunday, December 24.

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Hovis

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Doug, J. Walker, J. Buchanan

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

Romans 5:3-4
“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope.”

“How many observe Christ’s birthday, but how few obey His precepts!”

Benjamin Franklin

“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”

Bob Hope

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

When Paul wrote in two of his epistles that Christians should collectively express praise to God in “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs,” he was writing to people who were familiar with vocal praise (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). God’s people had sung praises to Him for over a millennia. They praised Him in the temple. They praised Him on their way to Jerusalem for annual feasts. They could not help but sing about God’s love, protection, and salvation. The tradition of acapella singing (which sprang from apostolic command) was practiced exclusively until the 7th century when Pope Vitalian introduced an organ into Catholic services.

I suppose you have never attended a worship service that did not involve singing. Vocal praise unifies the congregation. It makes everyone express praise. It uplifts tired spirits. It focuses the mind on God. It stirs the soul. During worship, consider these tips for making your singing better:

- (1). *Disregard the quality of your singing.* Many Christians do not sing during worship because they do not feel they have a talent for singing. But singing is not a performance. It is not about how you sound. Singing is about praising God.
- (2). *Focus on the words you are singing.* Each psalm, hymn, or spiritual song

addresses different faith topics. You cannot be praising God if you are singing about the cross but thinking about lunch. Paul commanded the Corinthians to sing with the spirit and with the mind also (I Cor. 14:15).

- (3). *Remember that singing is not just the opening act for the sermon.* Some Christians believe that the sermon is the central act of worship. The New Testament is clear that first century Christians regarded the Lord’s Supper as the core event of worship (Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:20-26). Singing, giving, praying, and teaching are also avenues of worship, but all are equally valuable.

James Hayes
