

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Inviting Danger

December 31, 2017

Issue 342

Is it a sin to drink alcohol in moderation? Is it a sin to play the lottery? Is it a sin to smoke or chew tobacco? There are many other questions like these that have been debated for centuries. Some moral questions have book-chapter-verse answers; in other cases, we have to apply biblical principles to arrive at an answer. And then at other times, we just have to use good judgment and ask, "Does this activity bring glory to God?"

Here is another way to think about some of these questions: Ask yourself, "Am I inviting danger into my life?" The world is a dangerous place. Between the terrorism, cancer, traffic accidents, and religious

persecution, it is difficult to navigate through life unscathed. So, why would you voluntarily bring danger into your life?

If you were to ask a person why he/she smokes, drinks, etc., they will give you the same answer (if they are honest): "It makes me feel good." Nicotine and alcohol redirect pleasure impulses in the brain so that the user will eventually need the nicotine or alcohol to feel good. They become addicted. But we know the danger of using those products. So instead of inviting the danger into your life that comes with nicotine and alcohol use, why not use "undangerous" methods?

God put endorphins into your brain. They are natural pain inhibitors, which are stimulated primarily by two activities—exercise and laughter. Have you ever felt better after a good laugh? Do you feel a boost of energy after exercise? Those are the "feel good" things God put in you. To re-wire your brain so it finds pleasure in chemicals is to neglect the natural "high" God made for you to experience.

Using your mind and body the way God intended brings great joy. Misusing God's blessings brings danger.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Our sympathy is extended to Johnny and Eddie Ray Walker on the passing of their mother and lifelong Pleasant View member, Mildred Walker. The service was Thursday.
- David Billingsley is experiencing a bad case of gout in his knee.
- Mike Reed has had the flu.
- Mark Hayes will have another kidney procedure Friday.

Morning Sermon: "Holy Spirit" Building Fund Contribution Today; Meal After Service Tonight

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Gupton, Smith

Pray: Hovis

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

Ecclesiastes 5:10
“He who loves money will
not be satisfied with money,
nor he who loves abundance
with its income. This too is
vanity.”

“The best six doctors anywhere

And no one can deny it

Are sunshine, water, rest, and air

Exercise and diet.

These six will gladly you attend

If only you are willing

Your mind they'll ease

Your will they'll mend

And charge you not a shilling.”

Nursery Rhyme, Quoted by Wayne Fields

New Year's Resolutions

A 19-year-old Jonathan Edwards wrote this prior to setting his resolutions for a new year: “Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God’s help, I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ’s sake.” That sentiment should guide all of our activities, particularly our New Year’s resolutions. His statement resembles James’s instruction to always say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that” (James 4:15).

There are many resolutions in Scripture. Daniel committed himself not to be defiled by the king’s choice food or wine (Daniel 1:8). Joseph

did not want to do anything to disgrace Mary (Matt. 1:19). Joshua boldly stated that he and his house would always serve the Lord (Joshua 24:15). But we should be careful when making resolutions. Solomon wrote that “it is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay” (Eccl. 5:5).

If you make resolutions for the new year, remember a few things:

(1). *Make sure your resolutions glorify God.* Self-serving resolutions make one become selfish over time. Resolutions that focus on God and others produce selflessness.

(2). *Be reasonable.* Do not resolve to wake up at 4:00 a.m. every morning

to read a chapter of the Bible. If you do not usually wake up that early, then you will likely not keep that resolution.

(3). *Commit yourself to things that will last.* Think about doing things that will continue long after 2018 ends. Start new family traditions. Open up a retirement account.

(4). *Focus on experience over material things.* Making memories are worth the money it takes to gain them. The money will come and go, but the memory lasts. Resolve to *do* something instead of *have* something.

James Hayes
