

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

The Internet

January 21, 2018

Issue 345

On a 1994 episode of *Today Show*, Bryant Gumbel had just read a commercial that included an Internet address. Then this exchange happened:

Gumbel: "What is the Internet anyway?"

Katie Couric: "The Internet is that massive computer network that is becoming really big now."

Gumbel: "Do you write to it like mail?"

An off-camera producer chimed in and said that the Internet was a computer network that connected universities so they could share information. That was a good definition in 1994, but it's nowhere

close to accurate today. The Internet is now woven into the fabric of American cultural. But, like most things, it can be used for good and bad.

The Good:

(1). *Spreading information.* Any computer or smart phone with Internet access can spread information in an instant. You no longer have to be standing beside a telephone to receive information.

(2). *Evangelism.* Just like the apostle used Roman roads to do mission work, the Internet is used to preach the gospel to the lost. It has been a tremendous tool for missionaries.

(3). *Connection.* Social media sites like Facebook have allowed people to keep in touch efficiently.

The Bad:

(1). *Gossip.* People can use hidden identities to spread false information about others.

(2). *The Predator's Playground.* Sexual exploitation has grown exponentially with the growth of the Internet.

(3). *Harassment.* Many people are harassed and bullied online every day. Teenagers are most susceptible to this type of behavior.

So, Christian, how do you use the Internet?

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Canetha has been recovering at home from recent illnesses.
- Beverly Nicholson is taking oral chemotherapy.
- Carol Saling is being treated at home.
- Darlene Baxter, Maime Hamilton's daughter, will have surgery in the next few weeks for cancer.
- Happy Haven Children's Home contribution today. Use a separate envelope or mark your check for that fund.

Morning Sermon: "Breaking The Bonds of Bitterness"

Tonight's Sermon: "Travelling Without Jesus"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Walker

Pray: Gupton

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: J. Demonbreum, Reed, Billingsley

Pray: John Hayes

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

I Corinthians 13:1
“If I speak with the tongue of
men and of angels, but do
not have love, I have
become a noisy gong or a
clanging cymbal.”

*“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your bal-
ance, you must keep moving.”*

Albert Einstein

*“Finish each day and be done with it. You have
done what you could. Some blunders and ab-
surdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon
as you can. Tomorrow is a new day.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Attention, Everyone!

Here's the thing about teenagers: They've always been teenagers. They have always been impulsive, argumentative, emotional, foolish, and immature. They want to experiment with everything the world has to offer. They know they are always right, and they firmly believe that their parents are wrong. Teenagers act like teenagers.

But there is a new fad sweeping the Internet that takes teenage foolishness to a whole new level. It's called the "Tide Pod Challenge." Teenagers are daring each other to eat the colorful Tide detergent packs and film the event so it can be posted online. That's right: Otherwise sane teenagers are willingly chewing deter-

gent.

"Why?" you ask. I suppose they are doing it for the same reason teenagers do other risky things: for the attention. We are living in a "Look at me!" era, and attention-seekers come in both genders and all ages. Notice me. Care about me. Listen to me. Acknowledge me. Love me. Honor me. Recognize me. If the attention comes my way, then...I can be happy, be rich, be satisfied, be famous, be important, and so on. And if it takes eating detergent to get that attention, so be it.

Jesus warns us about attention-seeking. He preached in Matthew chapter six that even when we do righteous things like pray, give, and

fast, we should not do them "before men to be noticed by them" (v. 1). He rebuked attention-seeking in parables (Luke 18:10-14) and condemned it among His apostles (Matt. 20:20-28). Paul wrote that we should not seek to promote ourselves but rather "with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves" (Phil. 2:3).

Christian morality is not, "Notice me!" It is, "How can I serve you?" Are you an attention-seeker or a servant? Do you consider others more important than yourself?

James Hayes
