

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Would You Debate Jesus?

**January 28, 2018**

**Issue 346**

One day in the middle of Dr. Marlin Connelly's class called "Sermon Preparation and Delivery," the media relations director at Lipscomb knocked on the door and said he needed to see me. He said Channel 5 wanted to do a debate on their cable channel featuring two representatives from all the major colleges in Nashville. He wanted me and another student to represent Lipscomb. The debate was about censorship.

I like hearing different views on an issue, and sometimes a debate is the only way for both sides to be heard. It is frustrating, however, to discuss an issue with someone who does

not know all the facts, or they have "confirmation bias"—they only accept facts that confirm what they already believe.

Have you noticed that of all the things Jesus commanded you to do, He never said, "Debate me"? You can doubt Him (like Thomas). You can question Him (like Peter). You can even reject Christ and accept the consequences (like most of the world). But you are not allowed to debate Him.

For instance, when Jesus said that marriage was designed as a union between man and woman (Matt. 19:4-6), He meant it. He was not kidding. But some

will debate Jesus and say, "No, Jesus. If two people love each other, they should be allowed to marry one another. Love is the only qualification."

Also, Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Many people—based on what they believe—would have debated Jesus and said, "No, Jesus. Baptism is unnecessary for salvation. You are wrong."

It is a foolish thing to debate Jesus. He never told you to do that. He told you to take up your cross and follow Him (Matt. 10:38). He desires your obedience, not your stubbornness (John 14:15).

Items of Note:

- Allison Walker, granddaughter of Johnny and Patty, was near the shooter at the Marshall County High School in KY. She was not injured. Be praying for her and others who were injured or lost loved ones during that shooting.
- We have several who have been affected by the flu and other viruses this winter. Pray for them and those who care for them.

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**Morning Sermon: "Please Listen To Me"**  
**Tonight's Sermon: "Why Is Grace Amazing?"**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Smith

Serve: D. Demonbreum, J. Walker, Hovis

Pray: Brown

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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

Psalm 139:23-24  
"Search me, O God, and  
know my heart; try me and  
know my anxious thoughts;  
and see if their be any  
hurtful way in me, and lead  
me in the everlasting way."

*"Perhaps it takes a purer faith to praise God for  
unrealized blessings than for those we once en-  
joyed or for those we enjoy now."*

*A.W. Tozer*

*"Those blessings are sweetest that are won with  
prayer and worn with thanks."*

*Thomas Goodwin*

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## The Jigsaw Puzzle Of Life

It has been said that the hardest jigsaw puzzle ever devised had 1,000 pieces...and it was solid black. The only way someone can solve a jigsaw puzzle is by looking at the picture on the box; otherwise, there is no frame of reference—no guide.

Life often feels like a puzzle. Every day presents new challenges that are difficult to navigate and resolve. Thankfully, the Bible shows us what the finished product should look like. The path to that picture might be treacherous and confusing at times, but the end of the path is glorious. As you work on life's puzzles, notice that God's methods for solving it are similar to how one would work a regular jigsaw puzzle.

(1). *Establish the border first.* God has always told His people where the boundaries are. He told Adam and Eve. He told the Israelites. He told you. If you stay within His borders by following His commandments, life becomes less complicated.

(2). *The Creator gave you the picture.* Jesus said, "I come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). God wants you to know all the joys of life that come from being a follower of Christ. The picture He painted for you is beautiful and fulfilling and free. You do not have to wonder how to live; He has given you the directions.

(3). *When one piece does not work, move*

*on.* Some things do not always work out. You will make bad decisions. As long as the Lord allows you to adjust a situation within the borders he establishes in Scripture, do it. Change jobs. Change addresses. Adjust.

(4). *Perseverance pays off.* Every piece to the puzzle has its correct place. You need to be willing to find the correct place for it. There are times to speak and times to be quiet. There are times to move and times to be still. Trusting in God's grace, mercy, and providence will help you mature in your faith and see where God has blessed your life.

James Hayes

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