

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

If You Sing It, Do You Mean It?

February 4, 2018

Issue 347

Psalms 120-134 are categorized by Bible students as “Songs of Ascents,” which means they were typically sung by sojourning Israelites as they made their way up to Jerusalem for sacred feasts. Those psalms praised God for his power, protection, and provisions. The people could not help but sing about their relationship with God.

Is that your disposition on Sunday morning? Do you go to worship ready to express your praise to God through song? We are familiar with the passages that instruct us to sing to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). But if you sing in a ritualistic,

disconnected kind of way, is God really being praised? Can you really say that you worshipped God if you did not sing and make melody in your heart to Him (Eph. 5:19). What’s more, do you believe the lyrics you are singing?

For instance, I know you have sung, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” Is it? If you sing it, do you mean it? If social media is any indication of the average Christian’s hope, it seems like he or she has put much more hope in elections, sports teams, and possessions than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.

How about this one? “I care not today what the morrow may bring, if shadow or sunshine or rain. The Lord I know ruleth o’er everything, and all of my worry is vain.” Most people consider their worry to be significant. They do not consider it vanity. They do not believe that God is in control. Do you fall into that category?

Finally, the first church song you ever learned was probably “Jesus Loves Me.” Do you believe it when you sing it? Do you know how much Jesus loves you? Better yet, does He know how much you love Him?

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Janet Tabor is still struggling with complications from the flu.
- David Tabor, Janet’s son, is recovering well from recent hip replacement surgery.
- Continue to pray for those affected by the shooting in Marshall County, KY.
- If you see someone you don’t recognize, introduce yourself. Everyone is welcomed at Pleasant View!

Morning Sermon: “Four Dangerous Philosophies” Hillcrest Nursing Home Worship At 2:30

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Reed

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Garrett

Serve: J. Demonbreum, J. Walker, Gupton

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

II Peter 3:9
“The Lord is not slow about
His promise, as some count
slowness, but is patient
toward you, not wishing for
any to perish but for all to
come to repentance.”

*“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.”*

Chinese proverb

*“What lies behind us and what lies before us are
tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Second Place

I have only won one trophy in my life. It was 1990, and I was on the forensics team at Goodpasture. I was competing at a tournament at Overbrook Middle School, in a category called “Original Oratory,” which meant I wrote and delivered a speech without notes. The judges for the tournament were made up of parents, teachers, etc. from the various schools that participated. They were given a crash course in judging before the tournament started, and then they were dispersed around the school to judge the rounds. (A judge could not judge a student from their own school.) I was fortunate to make it to the finals. At the awards ceremony at the end of the day, all the

finalists went on stage, and then they called out the final ranking, from last to first. It got down to me and a girl left on stage. If my name wasn’t called next, it meant I was the winner. But then the announcer said, “And in second place...James Hayes.” I took my trophy, congratulated the winner, and went home.

But here is the kicker: I was supposed to win. By a mile. One of our own parents misunderstood the scoring system and had awarded the winner way more points than she had intended to in an earlier round. But there was no way to change the results. Once the scores were given, the round was over. So, the only trophy I have ever received was sup-

posed to be for first place, but it is for second.

How many times in life you were in second place but you felt like you deserved to be first? 50 times? 100? The Bible says it is okay to be in second place. It’s even commanded.

“...but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves” (Phil. 2:3). “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor” (Rom. 12:10). “Do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly” (Rom. 12:16).

James Hayes
