

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Knowing God's Will

February 18, 2018

Issue 349

About ten years ago I got a speeding ticket on Briley Parkway. It's easy to speed on Briley because there are several lanes and there usually isn't a high volume of traffic. I didn't dispute the ticket, because there was nothing to dispute: I was speeding. I was violating the law, so I was fined.

God's will for our lives is stated as plainly in the New Testament as a speed limit sign on Briley Parkway. I am thankful that I live under the law of liberty, which means that even though I break God's will from time to time, I can still go to heaven by His grace and mercy. Nevertheless, I should not willfully sin. Paul put it this way: "How

shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:2). So, it is important for me—and you—to know God's will.

In Ephesians 5, Paul begins a passage by focusing on God's will—"So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (v. 17)—and then moves on to list several areas of life where God's will can be known and practiced by His people.

(1). "*And do not get drunk with wine...*" (v. 18). Alcohol has saturated our society and caused immeasurable harm. Drinking is unnecessary today. It should be avoided.

(2). *Praise God* (v. 19). God

is a jealous God. He craves the attention of His people. Your singing to Him is an expression of our love and devotion.

(3). *Be thankful* (v. 20). God pours blessings on you every day, so you should be thankful every day.

(4). *Submit your will to others* (v. 21). He finishes the chapter by highlighting God's will for marriages, which involves mutual submission.

God's will is not a mystery. We only have to be willing to know it and obey it. If we do, we will enjoy the best life imaginable.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Mike Smith has been sick lately.
- Janet Tabor is still sick at home.
- Kyle Reed had a seizure Monday, but test results were normal.
- Mike McPherson's address is 308 Randall Dr. Nashville, TN 37211. A thank you card or financial help would be appreciated. He did not ask for either, but Lisa's expenses are significant. Any help is greatly appreciated and useful.

## Morning Sermon: "The Beatitudes" Tonight's Sermon: "What Are The Angels Doing?"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: Hovis

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: J. Demonbruem, J. Walker, Reed

Pray: Garrett

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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

*“A blank piece of paper is God’s way of showing  
us how hard it is to be God.”*

*Sidney Sheldon*

*“I would rather be what God chose to make me  
than the most glorious creature I can think of.”*

*George MacDonald*

James 3:13

Who among you is wise and  
understanding? Let him show  
by his good behavior his  
deeds in the gentleness of  
wisdom.”

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## Intolerance

In the 1990s, the word “tolerant” became pervasive in American culture. Being tolerant became the ultimate virtue, and being intolerant was the greatest social sin. The word “yes” was always acceptable; the word “no” was rejected. The seeds of toleration were planted in the ‘90s, and they have grown to full bloom in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If you defend God’s word and object to homosexuality (Romans 1:26-27; I Cor. 6:9; I Timothy 1:10), you are a hateful bigot. If you defend God’s word and object to abortion (Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 1:5), you hate women. If you defend God’s word and object to instrumental music in worship (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), you

are a cold-hearted traditionalist.

Scripture teaches that you should follow the steps of Jesus (I Peter 2:21). And if you love Him, you will keep His commandments (John 14:15). So, when it comes to teaching and spreading the message of Christ, you should use Christ as your model for teaching. Was Jesus tolerant or intolerant? This we know: Jesus loved all people with an unfathomable love...and He despised sin with every fiber of His being. Did he love the woman caught in adultery? Absolutely. Did He tolerate her sin? Did He say, “Live as you please”? Absolutely not—He said, “...from now on sin no more” (John 8:11). Did He love the

scribes and Pharisees? Of course.

Did He stand idly by as they misrepresented God’s will? Of course not—He called them a “brood of vipers” (Matt. 23:33).

You do not do God any favors by conforming to the culture police. All Christians should love what God loves and hate what God hates. You should always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15)...without compromising the truth. God doesn’t want or need Christians to appease the masses (II Tim. 4:3); He needs them to “reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with great patience and instruction (II Tim. 4:2).

James Hayes

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