

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Do You *Have To Sin*?

**March 4, 2018**

**Issue 351**

In the early 1970s, *The Flip Wilson Show*, an hour-long variety show, was the second highest rated program on television. Wilson played many characters, including Geraldine Jones. She was a sassy, modern woman whose boyfriend was named Killer. Geraldine's famous catchphrase was, "The devil made me do it!" Unfortunately, Geraldine was not the only person in history who blamed the devil for every bad act they committed.

Think about it: Does the devil *force you* to do anything? Are you powerless against his temptations? Of course not. Think about how different the plan of redemption would be if you

could not control your actions. Judgment Day would not exist—Jesus would just condemn Satan for forcing the world to commit sin. What about free will? If you believe you have free will, then that means you believe you have choice. If Satan is responsible for all the bad things you do, then free will cannot exist. There's no choice.

The Bible teaches that you will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account of both the good and bad you have done (II Cor. 5:10). No one else will be accountable for your actions. God's word also declares that you *do* have the power to withstand the devil's schemes—

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). The apostle John assumed you had the ability to avoid sin when he wrote, "I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin" (I John 2:1). When a woman caught in adultery was thrown in front of Jesus, He said to her, "From now on sin no more" (John 8:11). If she were incapable of resisting the temptation to commit adultery, He would have said, "Don't worry about it. It's Satan's fault."

With the Lord's power and guidance, you can find "the way of escape" from temptation (I Cor. 10:13).

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- We rejoice at the baptism of Rachel Campbell Tuesday night! We are thankful for her response to God's grace and mercy!
- Dennis DeLemos passed away. His funeral was yesterday.
- Ray Hester, Joyce Walker's brother, is in NHC nursing home in Springfield.
- Angelo Delgado, a classmate of Easton Walker, is in hospice care.

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**Morning Sermon: "Fulfilling All Righteousness"**

**Tonight's Sermon: "The Reality Of Hell"**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Hovis

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Baker

Serve: J. Demonbruem, J. Walker, Garrett

Pray: Billingsley

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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

I Peter 4:17

“For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

*Statement from Mike McPherson:*

*“Lisa and I have been overwhelmed at the cards and financial help you have sent us. I wish she could have been with me to meet you all. I think I can overlook no fellowship meal :). Thanks for all the encouraging things you’ve said and written.”*

*The Main Street Church of Christ in Springfield is having their Gospel Meeting this week. The speaker is Keith Parker. Tonight at 6:00. Monday-Wednesday at 7:00.*

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## Questions About Abortion

It is a shame that abortion is a political issue. It seems like any discussion of the topic has to be filtered through the prism of political rhetoric and party affiliation. However, Christians should have their views on any social issue molded by God’s word and nothing else. But since you do hear various views on the subject of abortion, let me offer seven questions for those who may feel like an unborn child is merely a “mass of cells” that has no special value or personhood:

- (1). Was Jesus fully human before Mary delivered Him?
- (2). Why does a baby have a name and referred to as a “baby” if the mother wants to give birth to the child, but if she

wants to abort the child, the child is just a “fetus”? Why does the unborn child’s personhood shift from mother to mother? Shouldn’t every unborn child have the same intrinsic value?

- (3). Does the unborn child have the same value as a diseased kidney or appendix?
- (4). Do you think an unborn child wants to be aborted? If the answer is “no” for every unborn child, why is abortion legal, and why do you support it?
- (5). Does God have a purpose for unborn children? We know that God knew the identity of many people in Scripture before they were delivered. If the unborn child is a value-less, person-less “thing,” then will you say that it is God’s will

that some unborn children should be aborted?

(6). We know that abortions are legal even when the child’s heart is beating. So, if a person intentionally stops the beating heart of someone else, why isn’t that murder?

(7). Is God indifferent toward abortion? Do you think His view of that act varies depending on the majority opinion of the Supreme Court in the United States of America, a country and Court which is only 242 years old?

Life begins at conception. May we always value the life God gives us and do everything to protect and honor that marvelous blessing.

James Hayes

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