

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

God's Ways

April 15, 2018

Issue 357

I am sure that everyone who is reading this has heard the song "Fire and Rain" by James Taylor. The folk rock melody is a bit somber, Everyone knows that Taylor is singing about sad events, but most people do not know the story behind the lyrics.

In 1970, James Taylor was recording his first album, in London, England, when his childhood friend, Suzanne Schnerr, committed suicide. Taylor's friends and family did not tell him of her death until six months later. Before, during, and after Suzanne's death, Taylor struggled with drug abuse, depression, and the collapse of his old band, The Flying Machine. Each

verse of "Fire and Rain" touches on those events. Verse one begins with, "Just yesterday morning, they let me know you were gone/ Suzanne, the plans they made put an end to you" (a reference to her funeral). In the second verse, he sings, "Won't you look down upon me, Jesus/ You gotta help me to make a stand/ You've just gotta see me through another day" (a reference to his addictions). And finally in the third verse: "Well, there's hours of time on the telephone line to talk about things to come/ Sweet dreams and flying machines in pieces on the ground" (a reference to his old band).

In life, we get to hear the

song—so to speak—but God's lyrics are sometimes mysterious. He has the plan. He knows what's coming. He knows what we need. All we can do is observe the result of His work. God told Isaiah, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways" (55:8). In other words, it is often futile to try to decipher an infinite, holy, eternal God's ways by using our mortal, limited, sinful minds.

Let God be God. Trust Him. "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight" (Prov. 3:6).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Molly McKnight's grandmother, Jane McKnight, has lung cancer. She is 89.
- Marlies McKnight's friend, Dawn Crozman, will have a biopsy on the 27th.
- Please give James the sports schedules for our young people so he can put them in the bulletin.
- There is a sign up sheet on the back wall for men who would like to take communion to Cathetha Walker and other shut-ins.

Morning Sermon: "The Second Mile" Evening Sermon: "The Lost Virtues: Courage"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: J. Walker

Serve: Hovis, J. Demonbreum, Garrett

Pray: E. Walker

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

*“Why is patience so important? Because it
makes us pay attention.”*

Paulo Coelho

*“Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of
patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persis-
tence.”*

Hal Borland

James 1:19
“This you know, my beloved
brethren. But everyone must
be quick to hear, slow to
speak and slow to anger.”

Soul-Decaying Garbage

Last week a young sperm whale washed up on a beach in southern Spain. It was unusually thin. Scientists were eager to find out what killed the 33-foot mammal, so they performed a necropsy. The results were shocking: The whale had 63 pounds of garbage in its stomach—ropes, plastics, nets, and other debris. A sperm whale’s diet usually consists of giant squid, but this whale had killed itself dining on garbage humans had thrown into the ocean.

Ingesting garbage will kill both humans and animals alike. A high-sugar diet can overtax the pancreas, causing Type 2 diabetes. Alcohol, tobacco, and recreational drugs re-

construct brain patterns and cause unnatural cravings, i.e. addictions. But a poor diet is not the only type of garbage one can introduce into his/her life. Here are a few more:

(1). *Bad advice.* If you know someone who has a great marriage, great kids, and a faithful life, buy him or her dinner and ask them, “How did you do it?” It would be foolish to launch into marriage or child rearing without learning from the best. Have enough humility to know you are not an expert in anything, and that others can help you avoid future heartache if you just ask them for help.

(2). *Fake news.* Our president has popularized the phrase “fake news,”

but fake news has been disseminated since the Garden of Eden. The question is, will you accept fake news and share it or reject it? When you hear rumors about someone, is your knee-jerk reaction to believe or question? You will never regret getting the facts first.

(3). *Apathy.* While it is true that we often care too much about what others are doing, being apathetic to the needs of others is sinful. James wrote: “Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

James Hayes
