

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Sound Doctrine, Correctly Applied

April 22, 2018

Issue 358

“We need to hire a sound preacher”; “This congregation is committed to sound doctrine”; and “How many sound churches are in that town?” are statements that I have heard my entire life in churches of Christ. I love the fact that people are committed to “healthy teaching”—the literal meaning of sound doctrine. The Bible teaches that Christians should embrace sound doctrine and reject false doctrines (Rom. 16:17; I Tim. 6:3-5; II Tim. 1:13; II Tim. 4:2-4; Titus 1:9; Titus 2:1). Preachers and churches who move away from sound doctrine are moving away from God’s will for their lives.

But there are a few ways in

which the commitment to sound doctrine has led to a few unhealthy practices.

(1). *Condescending attitudes.* The Bible never teaches us to be holier-than-thou or smarter-than-thou as we aim at fulfilling God’s will. Quite the contrary: Paul taught Timothy to preach with “great patience and instruction” when dealing with false teachers. The Galatians were told to treat anyone caught in a trespass “in a spirit of gentleness” (Gal. 6:1). The Ephesians were commanded to speak “the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15). You cannot have sound doctrine without sound attitudes.

(2). *Narrow focus.* Some

define sound doctrine too narrowly. They think it just involves corporate worship activities. But the Bible does not limit the scope of sound doctrine. It is “sound” to serve the poor, act when you know the good thing to do, encourage the weak, and support the church. Some who claim to practice sound doctrine in worship settings are often less committed to sound doctrine in other areas of their lives.

God’s word should be defended and practiced at every opportunity. But let’s be sure that to apply it in the manner and spirit that it was intended.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Molly McKnight’s grandmother, Jane Knight, passed away in New Jersey.
- We will have a meal after church next Sunday night.
- Our annual singing is this Friday night at 7:00 p.m.
- Please give James the sports schedules for the young people.
- Sign up to take communion to Canetha Walker on back wall.
- Building fund contribution next Sunday.

Morning Sermon: “Love Your Enemies” Evening Sermon: “The Lost Virtues: Accountability”

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Smith

Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Reed, D. Demonbreum, J. Walker

Pray: Baker

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 2:24

“And He Himself bore our
sins in His body on the cross,
so that we might die to sin
and live to righteousness; for
by His wounds you were
healed.”

*Jill Reed, softball, Mericourt Park, Clarksville,
Tuesday (24th) and Thursday (26th), 5:45 both
nights.*

Games for Saturday, April 28th:

*Charlie Baker, baseball, behind Pleasant View
Elementary, 2:30.*

*Kyle Reed, soccer, Pleasant View soccer fields,
9:00 and 11:00.*

Where Do I Start?

The Bible I have used to preach from since 1999 has 1,196 pages. Since (thankfully) I was raised in the church, the size of the Bible has never been intimidating to me. I knew from an early age that the Bible is just a collection of 66 books. Some books are short, some books are long. It's not a novel. It's not a textbook. It's not a biography. It's unlike any other book in the world. It's just the Bible.

But imagine someone who has never “darkened the door of a church building.” Imagine handing that person a 1,200-page book and saying, “Read this. It's easy to understand. It teaches you how to go to heaven.” I know what my reaction

would be if I were that person: “There is no way I could read that whole thing. Where is the Cliff's Notes version?” So, when you interact with an “unchurched” person, remember a few things:

(1). *Take them back to Sunday School.* Remember when you were in Sunday School? The lessons were brief. You learned names and places. You took small spiritual bites. Feed the lost person small bites and he/she will probably look forward to more food later.

(2). *Have a plan.* Many unchurched people want to study Revelation or the role of angels or some other subject that is mysterious to them. Don't take the bait. Crawl before

you walk. Learn addition and subtraction before you do algebra.

(3). *Be willing to say, “I don't know. Let's study that.”* Somewhere in the course of studying with someone you might come across a subject or question that is difficult. That is no reason to abandon the study or declare yourself to be biblically illiterate. Just say, “I don't know” then use the Bible to find the answers. It will show the lost person that you are committed to using the Bible to answer Bible questions.

God will bless your efforts when you share the gospel with others.

James Hayes
