

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## Prevention

May 27, 2018

Issue 363

The New American Standard Bible states that God had “regard” for Abel’s offering of the firstlings of his flock and the fat portions, but God had no regard for Cain’s offering. So, Cain became “very angry and his countenance fell” (Gen. 4:5). God made things simple for Cain: if you “do well,” your life will improve; if you “do not do well, sin is crouching at the door, and its desire is for you” (Gen 4:7). Sin is crouching at the door of everyone’s spiritual house. It is ready to be indulged whenever you let it into your life. But you have a choice to make, just like Cain. Unfortunately, he chose sin and he killed his

brother.

Most sinful acts are the result of a series of poor decisions. A person who gets a DUI first must decide to purchase alcohol. Then he makes the decision to keep drinking until he is drunk. Then—after his judgment has diminished due to the alcohol—he decides to drive a car. So, how does one avoid getting a DUI? Don’t do step one in a series of steps that leads to a DUI arrest.

You know you should not sin; but do you give much thought to preventing sin? Some parents do not allow their children to use any word that even sounds like a cuss word. Why? Because

if the child gets comfortable using semi-bad language, one day he/she might use real bad language. Is it a sin to communicate with friends of the opposite sex? No. But I know some married people who have absolutely no communication with former girlfriends or boyfriends through social media, texting, or any other method so that they will not be tempted into a sinful relationship some day.

Are there areas of your life where sin is crouching at your door? If so, take the necessary steps to distance yourself from it. You will be grateful you did.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Sympathy is extended to Steve Baggett, the preacher at Walnut St. church of Christ in Dickson, on the loss of his son, Matt Baggett (38), who died in a car accident Thursday.
- Super Saturday VBS is June 30.
- Gospel Meeting July 1-4 with Keith Parker.
- Sign up on the back wall to take communion to Canetha Walker.

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## Morning Sermon: “Sermon on the Mount: Judging” Question and Answer Sermon Tonight

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: E. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: Garrett, J. Demonbreum, Billingsley

Pray: Reed

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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

Proverbs 13:3  
“The one who guards his  
mouth preserves his life; the  
one who opens wide his lips  
comes to ruin.”

*“The truest form of love is how you behave to-  
ward someone, not how you feel about them.”*

*Steve Hall*

*“The only people who can ruin a relationship  
or make that relationship work are the two peo-  
ple in it.”*

*Rob Liano*

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## What Do I Say?

Chris Holt was voted Most Likely To Succeed in my high school graduating class. He was a brilliant student and a kind person. He and I were in the same class kindergarten through college. After college, he earned his medical degree and became an anesthesiologist. He was working in Salt Lake City, Utah a few years later when he did not show up for a staff meeting at his hospital. Unable to reach him by phone, hospital officials asked a police officer to conduct a welfare check at his apartment. The police found Chris dead from a suicide.

His funeral was in Nashville. Many of his fellow high school classmates attended. As I was standing in line

at the visitation, a friend walked up and said, “I’m going to stand in line with you. I have no idea what to tell Chris’s parents. You do this stuff all the time.” I said, “I have no idea what to say, so I don’t plan on saying much.”

You have been in similar situations. You were at a loss for words. You did not know what to say to the grieving parent. You did not know what to say to the child who just made the play that lost the game. You did not know what to say to the father who just got laid off and has no idea how he is going to pay next month’s mortgage. But that is okay. God never commanded you to be a brilliant wordsmith, capable of

speaking just the right words at the right time, every time.

God made things much simpler for you. He just commanded you to love people. Being present at the visitation is enough. Hugging the crying child who lost the game is enough. Offering assistance to the distraught father is enough.

Love is expressed in many ways, not just in the words we say. One day it will be more important to you to be known as a lover of all people than as a brilliant orator.

James Hayes

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