

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Politics

June 10, 2018

Issue 365

Years ago I wrote an article titled "Jesus Was A Democrat." I meant for the headline to be shocking. I knew it would attract attention. Some people would see that headline and agree. Others would see that headline and disagree. Still others would see that headline and think, "How does he know?" Nothing gets people fired up more than a discussion of politics.

The fact is, Jesus was not a Democrat nor a Republican nor anything political. He was a Middle Eastern Jew who never ran for office, never involved Himself in the political arena, and never sought political solutions for spiritual problems. He was apolitical. His mis-

sion was to seek and save the lost, not build a constituency or lead a political party. Was that because there were no political problems in Jesus's day? Of course not. Nearly half of the Roman empire lived in slavery. Women did not have equal rights with men. Jesus could have spent His entire 33 years trying to right all of life's wrongs through political means, but He didn't.

So, it is curious when Christians seem to think that it is *their* mission to change the world through politics. If the right person can get elected, everything will start changing for the better, they think. If the right party has the majority

of the House and Senate, then morality will reign, they hope. But since the Bible existed long before there was a United States of America, I am convinced that the eternal message of Christ can heal America's wounds better than temporary politicians.

That is not to say that a Christian should abstain from political activity. I am just saying that our primary work is evangelism. Converting someone to Christ is more important than converting someone to a candidate. We should not defend our candidate more passionately than we defend our Savior.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Sympathy is extended to the family of Jennifer Watts. She passed away Wednesday morning.
- Also remember Randy Gupton, Chase McMahan, Jennifer Watts, and Robert Williams.
- 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.

Morning Sermon: "Sermon on the Mount: The Two Paths" Men's Meeting At 5:00; Singing At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School
Read: E. Walker
Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship
Wait on the Table: Smith
Serve: J. Walker, J. Demonbreum, J. Buchanan
Pray: Brown

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

Isaiah 54:17

“No weapon that is formed
against you will prosper;
and every tongue that
accuses you in judgment you
will condemn. This is the
heritage of the servants of
the Lord...”

*“Guard well your spare moments. They are like
uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value
will never be known. Improve them and they
will become the brightest gems in a useful life.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*“My father taught me to work, but not to love
it.”*

Abraham Lincoln

Bible Stuff

Here are a few things to remember as you read the Bible.

(1). *The Bible is not a school textbook.* Some atheists reject Scripture because it doesn't say anything about dinosaurs or the Ice Age. But the Bible does not have to. It is not an anthropology textbook. It is not a biology textbook. It is not an exhaustive history of the world. It is the story of man's redemption. Don't try to make the Bible answer questions it was never meant to answer.

(2). *Not everything in the Old Testament is the old law.* For instance, the books of wisdom literature (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs) are practical for the Chris-

tian today. They are full of principles, praises, and prophecies, all designed to bless our lives. We do not practice the old law of Moses, but we learn great lessons from the Old Testament (Romans 15:4).

(3). *Not every command in the New Testament is for you.* Jesus gave some commands specifically to His apostles. You cannot jump into those conversations and yell, “Me too!” We are subject to the timeless commands that apply to every Christian.

(4). *A prophecy cannot mean something today it didn't mean when it was written.* We know this because God is no respecter of persons. He would not give conflicting messages to first

century Christians and us. Therefore, the beast in Revelation cannot be Adolf Hitler. First century Christians could not have interpreted that passage that way.

(5). *Bible miracles do not happen today because there is a Bible.* Miracles were performed to confirm the deity of Christ and message of His apostles. Certain gifts—like tongue speaking—were given to some Christians through the apostles prior to the canon of Scripture being completed so that the word could spread. Since we have a finished revelation of God, the purpose of miracles has ceased.

James Hayes
