

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Hypocrites, Liars, and Sinners, Oh My!

June 24, 2018

Issue 367

This week I heard a parable about a woman who approached her preacher after worship service on Sunday and said, "Brother Smith, I am not coming back to this church again."

"Why are you leaving?" he asked.

"This church is filled with hypocrites and liars. These people are phony and insincere."

"That is your decision," the preacher said. "But I want you to do something for me before you go. Take this cup of water and walk around the building one time without spilling a drop."

Confused, the woman took the cup and walked around

the building as they preacher instructed. "Ma'am, while you were walking around the building, did you see anybody else?"

"No," she said.

"That's right. When you were focusing on one thing, you didn't notice anything else around you. If you keep your focus on Jesus, you won't notice everyone else's faults. Jesus said, 'Follow Me!' not 'Follow them!'"

This attitude is common among Christians, unfortunately. And it is ironic that the supposedly healthy Christian is the one who decides to leave the church while the supposedly un-

healthy Christian is the one who continues to worship. The departing Christian has also misunderstood the mission of Christ—He came to save the hypocrites, liars, and sinners.

When we worship, we are not there to judge the relative morality of the people sitting around us. We are there to give praise and devotion to our Lord and Savior. We are there to encourage, not investigate. We are there to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. The speck that is in your brother's eye is not so obvious once you bring your own sins to Christ.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Super Saturday VBS is this Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Chet will teach the adult class at 9:30. James will teach the adult class at 10:15.
- Our Gospel Meeting begins next Sunday night at 6:00 at Coopertown. Ice cream after worship Sunday night. Monday night at Coopertown. Tues. & Wed. night at Pleasant View.
- Pray for Randy Gupton, Rick Reed, Darlene Baxter, Paula Lee.

Morning Sermon: "Sermon on the Mount: Two Disciples"
Evening Sermon: "Going Back To The Garden: Before And After Sin"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: J. Walker, J. Demonbreum, Smith

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

Proverbs 14:29
“He who is slow to anger has
great understanding, but he
who is quick-tempered
exalts folly.”

*“Let the first act of every morning be to make
the following resolve for the day:*

1. I shall not fear anyone on earth.

2. I shall only fear God.

3. I shall bear no ill will toward anyone.

*4. I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in re-
sisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffer-
ing.”*

Mahatma Gandhi

Words Matter

I am a words person. I am not a numbers person. I enjoyed English and History in school. I struggled mightily with algebra and geometry.

Words matter because words express thoughts. To convey your ideas properly, you must use the right words.

Twenty-first century American culture has become reckless with words. We have embraced the attention-getting words and rejected the meaningful words. Here are a few examples:

(1). *Abuse*. Many in the evangelical world consider male leadership in the local church to be an abuse of women. What comes to mind when you think of abuse? Physical assault?

Screaming at a defenseless person? Berating and belittling? Probably something like that. So, many who reject male leadership will use the word “abuse” so that the doctrine is seen as evil. Those who support female leadership can say they are supporting victims (emotional argument), which sounds more noble than saying they are rejecting God’s will.

(2). *Rape*. Rape is a horrible crime. Those who practice it should be imprisoned for the rest of their lives, in my opinion. But we are living in an age when that word is thrown around haphazardly. It has now been used for any sexual encounter in which the female regrets partici-

pating. She is free from all responsibility in the matter. To label a man a rapist is easy to do these days. When it comes to sexual encounters and consent, the lines are often thin. But we should be careful when we use a word as strong as “rape.”

(3). *Racist*. The “scarlet letter” in our society is to be labeled a racist. Racism is a horrible sin. It violates the Golden Rule, judges one person by the worst acts of someone else, and it “curses men” who are made in God’s image (James 3:9). So in order for us to discuss matters in our culture related to race, we have to do so without throwing around the racism label whenever it is convenient.

James Hayes
