

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## There Is No Third Place

**July 8, 2018**

**Issue 369**

Is the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16 a parable or the account of an actual event? Bible scholars disagree on this issue. But we know one thing for sure—the message is real.

First, we learn that the rich should not mistreat the poor. The rich man dressed in fine garments every day while Lazarus lay at his gate begging for crumbs. Since we know the eternal fate of both men, it is not a stretch to say that the rich man's treatment of Lazarus was sinful. Even though you might not consider yourself rich, you undoubtedly have the ability to reach down to those who have less. Romans 12:16: "Be of the same mind toward one

another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly..."

Second, in this story we learn that there are only two possible destinations for the souls of mankind. Man will either spend eternity in heaven or hell. Those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel will be punished (I Thess. 1:8). Those who obey God will enjoy the place Jesus prepared for them (Matt. 7:21; John 14:2). There is no third place. There is no middle ground. There will be no opportunity for compromise when you leave this earth.

Third, the Bible gives man

everything he needs in order to be saved. The rich man begged Abraham to send a message to his brothers on earth, but Abraham refused. Abraham said, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (Luke 16:29). Today, man has the New Testament. In it, every person can know what to do to be saved. The same acts that saved people 2,000 years ago can save people today.

The reader of Luke 16:19-31 is left with one undeniable truth: Heaven and hell are both real. Hell is painful; heaven is painless. Are you ready for judgment day?

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Doug Demonbreum went home from the hospital.
- Canetha Walker is receiving hospice care at home.
- Mike Smith is in Skyline Hospital with meningitis.
- Thanks to all of those who attended our Gospel Meeting. We averaged about 118 per night.
- Pray for Randy Gupton, Rick Reed, Darlene Baxter, Paula Lee, Rick Reed.

**Morning Sermon: "The Patience Of God"**

**Evening Sermon: "Sacrifice"**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Smith

Pray: Brown

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: Eddie, J. Demonbreum, J. Buchanan

Pray: Garrett

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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

John 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

*“Hell is paved with good intentions.”*

*Samuel Johnson*

*“We must picture hell where everyone is perpetually concerned about his own dignity and advancement, where everyone has a grievance, and where everyone lives with the deadly passions of envy, self-importance, and resentment.”*

*C.S. Lewis (The Screwtape Letters)*

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## Teach Or Love?

Should we love the lost or teach the lost? The easy answer is “both.” But many sincere Christians fail to do both, preferring one over the other. On the one hand, you have those who are committed to reaching the disaffected, downtrodden, poverty-stricken, neglected people of earth. So, they go on mission trips in order to bring the love of Christ to these forgotten souls. They will build houses for the poor, give them clothes and shoes, and/or attend to their medical needs. That’s great! Jesus said that the second greatest commandment is that we shall love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt. 22:39). But many of these mission trips are devoid of any teaching. No

one is taught what to do to inherit eternal life. No one is taught how to obey the gospel. So, when the Christians leave, the destitute have prettier houses and whiter teeth, but their souls are as dirty as they were before they met the Christians.

On the other hand, some believe that the lost only need to hear book-chapter-verse teaching and nothing else. If you encounter a lost person, you should open a Bible and immediately begin to show them passages on repentance and baptism. Once again, that’s great! Evangelism is a responsibility of all Christians (Matt. 28:18-20). Our faith is not a secret. We are not the privileged few who get to go to heaven—the Lord will

save *anyone* who comes to Him (I Tim. 2:4). But...will anyone listen to us if they are not first convinced that we genuinely love them? Of course not. Paul said that we should “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15).

So, yes, we should love people *and* teach people. We should evangelize *and* meet the immediate needs of the less fortunate. Love and evangelism is a “both/and” situation, not an “either/or” situation.

When we ignore evangelism to “do love,” we are not serving the souls of men. When we ignore love to “do evangelism,” we repel those who need to hear the message.

James Hayes

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