

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

What Is Vs. What Ought To Be

September 2, 2018,
2018

Issue 377

What would you think if you overheard this conversation between Ed and Tom?

“Hey, Tom. I was driving the other day and noticed my gas gauge was near empty. But gas prices are really high these days, so I just decided not to get any gas.”

“Wait. What? You’re just not going to buy any more gasoline for your car?” Tom said.

Ed leaned in, confidently. “Yep. That’s right. I just don’t want to buy gasoline anymore. I hate pumping the gas. I hate paying for it.”

Tom was confused. “Your car is not going to run. You

won’t be able to use your car anymore, and you won’t be able to go anywhere.”

“Well, I haven’t thought about that. I guess I’ll have to figure something out.”

If you heard Ed explaining why he was not going to buy gas anymore, you would think he was insane. When you are out of gas, you have to buy gas. You do not have an option. Your gas tank will not listen to your excuses.

You do not do yourself any favors by living in the “what ought to be.” It is more prudent to live in the “what is.” Those who live in the “what ought to be” world will spend money like they are rich, but the

reality is that they cannot afford their purchases. They will complain about things in their own congregation because other churches have nicer things. They are discontent, constantly dreaming of how things should be instead of doing their best with the way things are. To be clear: Goals and plans will make your future days more enjoyable. But hand-wringing, wishful thinking, and self-deception are a few of the tools Satan uses to make you miserable. The Bible states that *this is the day* the Lord has made, and you should rejoice and be glad in it.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Kristine Garrett is still having her recent tests re-viewed. A course of treatment will be planned soon.
- Continue to pray for Kristine Garrett, Randy Gupton, Robert Williams, Rick Reed, Darlene Baxter, and Maeleah Holtz.
- Bible Bowl practice today at 5:00.
- Enjoy Labor Day tomorrow! Be careful!

Morning Sermon: “The Cross: The Convicts” Tonight’s Sermon: “Working For The Lord...Literally”

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Hovis

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Reed, Brown

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

*“Faithless is he who says farewell when the road
darkens.”*

J.R.R. Tolkien

Psalm 37:1-2
“Do not fret because of
evildoers, be not envious
toward wrongdoers. For
they will wither quickly like
the grass and fade like the
green herb.”

*“Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or
else a madman or something worse.”*

C.S. Lewis

How Faithful Would You Be?

In Jesus’s message to the church at Pergamum, sent to their angel through John, he referred to a man named Antipas. He said that Antipas was His “faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells” (Rev. 2:13). Christ commended the Christians in Pergamum for holding fast to His name and not denying Him...

...which makes me think of Peter. In Acts 12, the apostle James was arrested and “put to death with a sword” (v. 2). Shortly afterwards, Peter was arrested and thrown into prison, where he was guarded by four men. An angel appeared the night before Peter was to be displayed before the people (and pre-

sumably executed) and broke the chains and freed Peter. What is most interesting about this account is that Peter was sound asleep when the angel appeared. His beloved fellow apostle had been executed, his own life was hours from ending, yet he slept...

...which makes me think of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Threatened with incineration if they did not bow to Nebuchadnezzar’s golden idol, those three men said, “...we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even

if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up” (Daniel 3:16-18).

How faithful would you be if you were facing certain death for your beliefs? The disciples in Pergamum did not deny Christ even when Antipas was killed. Peter was sleeping the night before his execution. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to disobey God even if God decided not to save them. So again, how faithful would you be in those situations?

James Hayes
