

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

That's Not In The Bible

November 25, 2018

Issue 390

There are approximately 600 commands in the old law, and another 1,000 or so commands in the New Testament. Of course, not every command is universal and timeless: the old law is now obsolete, and many New Testament commands were directed to the apostles or other specific individuals. But even though the number of universal, timeless commands are relatively few, it is interesting how many people seem to abide by commands that do not exist in either testament, like these:

(1). *"You shall be suspicious of fellow Christians."* We are commanded to reject false teachers (Matt. 7:15; Acts 20:28-31). We are com-

manded to be alert and sober in our judgment of all things (I Thess. 5:8; II Thess. 5:20-21). But God never commanded us to be suspicious. Just because someone suggests doing something new or different, we should not assume he/she is trying to split the church. "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Rom. 12:10).

(2). *"Panic."* Panic is not a fruit of the Spirit. Actually, the opposite is commanded. We are told to trust God (Proverbs 3:5), be courageous (Matt. 10:28; Eph. 6:11), and be faithful until death (Rev. 2:10). Those who are confident in God's providence will act that way.

(3). *"Isolate yourself from the world."* We cannot follow the command to be light in the world if we continue to withdraw from society. Yes, modern American culture promotes immorality, but that is even more of a reason to engage this world. It is hard to evangelize if you do not contact those who are lost.

The problem is this: Too many Christians create a version of faith that accommodates their spiritual weaknesses. Instead, they should allow God's word to challenge those weaknesses and mold them into the person God wants them to be (Psalm 119:11).

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Sign up on the back wall for our Christmas dinner by Wednesday.
- Martha Gregory, Cara Lea's mother, was in the hospital earlier in the week, but is home now.
- Steven Hayes is doing well following surgery for a benign tumor.
- Stephen Crocker, the son of Mike Crocker, the song leader at Bethel, was involved in a serious car accident. He has a broken femur.

Morning Sermon: "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

Tonight's Sermon: "How To Live A Long Life"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: J. Walker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Reed

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Billingsley, E. Walker

Pray: Hovis

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 25:1
“O Lord, You are my God; I
will exalt You, I will give
thanks to Your name; for
You have worked wonders,
plans formed long ago, with
perfect faithfulness.”

If you would like to contribute money to Mani

Pagidipalli, send funds to:

Broadway Church of Christ

ATTN: India Missions

2855 Broadway Street

Paducah, KY 42001

*Chet and Rachel Duke's address: 24331 Town
Walk Dr., Hamden, CT 06518.*

Worship Attendance Excuses

If a church member does not want to attend every church service, these are their typical arguments:

“The Bible only speaks of ‘first day of the week’ worship. If I worship then, I do not need to worship again.”

“I can serve the Lord just as well—if not better—by spending quality time with my family or community on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights.”

“I can study the Bible on my own. Why should I drive to a building to do that?”

“I don’t like [insert preacher or song leader here]. I don’t get anything out of worship.”

And so on. Maybe you have used one of these excuses. But what the member is really saying is this:

“What is the least I can do? What is the maximum amount of time I can give myself?” Is that the attitude we should have when it comes to anything church related? Of course not. A Christian should be asking what is the most they can do for the Lord.

Remember that if you attend every service of the church, you are devoting only four hours a week to worship and Bible study, plus driving time. That amounts to 3.5 percent of the hours you are awake per week. You get 96.5 percent of your hours for yourself. So, is the church asking too much of your time?

If hypocrites in the church give you hesitation, remember that you live and work around hypocrites every day. If a less-than-inspirational service causes you concern, remember that worship is not designed to please you—it is designed to please God. If you feel like your time is better used somewhere else, remember that you can do both—you can serve the Lord *and* worship with the church. Worship and service should never be an “either/or” proposition.

Worship the Lord. Study the Bible with fellow Christians. It will change your life for the better.

James Hayes
