

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Legalism

**December 9, 2018**

**Issue 392**

Have you ever been accused of being a “legalist”? Do you even know what that term means? Is it a good thing or bad thing to be a “legalist”? What does the Bible say?

First off, let’s define the term. As you can see, “legalism” includes the word “legal.” So, legalism has to do with adherence to the laws of God. I have never met anyone in my life, from any Christian group, who claims to have kept God’s laws perfectly. All believers believe Romans 3:23: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” But the question is, what role does obedience play in one’s salvation?

A legalist approaches God’s laws in one of two unbiblical ways. First, there are those who believe that obeying God’s laws is an end to itself. That is a sort of “check box” religion. Say the right prayers, attend the right services, give the right money, etc., and God will save you. But that is an obedience that is devoid of love. It is cold-hearted.

Second, there is a legalism that mixes man’s traditions with God’s laws, and then treats the laws and traditions equally. For instance, a legalist would decide that all matters of faith must be practiced his way—from the order of worship, to whether a church should have a paid youth minister,

to whether an elder needs to have multiple children in order to serve in that role. That type of legalist acts as the head of the church. He’s the sheriff, regulating all matters of faith. Ancient Pharisees were this type of legalist.

The Bible is clear: We are saved by the grace of God. No amount of good works can earn someone a place in heaven. Since we are saved by grace, and since Jesus is our Lord (Master), we should do everything in our power to demonstrate our faith in Jesus. We do good works because we are saved. We do good works because we love Jesus.

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- The Christmas card boxes are in the back. No need for stamps! Names are in alphabetical order.
- Our Christmas dinner is December 15 at 4:00 at the Livery Stables.
- Mike Smith has an aneurysm and tumor that is being evaluated.
- Continue to pray for Randy Gup-ton, Kristine Garrett, Rick Reed, and Paula Lee.

**Morning Sermon: “Why So Much Pain?”**

**Tonight’s Sermon: “How Old Are You?”**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: E. Walker

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Hovis

Serve: Doug, J. Walker, J. Buchanan

Pray: Billingsley

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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

I Corinthians 16:13-14  
"Be on the alert, stand firm  
in the faith, act like men, be  
strong. Let all that you do be  
done in love."

*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.*

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## Choose Happiness

"You made me mad!"

How many times have you *heard* it?  
How many times have you *said* it?  
How many times has the memory of  
a certain person or event boiled your  
blood and ruined your day? We have  
all felt that way, mainly because our  
nervous systems are made to re-  
spond to distress, and stressful situa-  
tions are tattooed on our brains. But  
do you *have to* be mad? Do you *have*  
to allow your day to be ruined by  
someone else? Not necessarily. You  
can choose happiness. But how?

(1). *Protect your mind.* From a Roman  
dungeon, Paul wrote, "Finally, breth-  
ren, whatever is true, whatever is  
honorable, whatever is right, what-

ever is pure, whatever is lovely, what-  
ever is of good repute, if there is any  
excellence and if anything worthy of  
praise, dwell on these things" (Phil.  
4:8). If you surround yourself with  
people (or the opinions of people)  
who are not true, honorable, right,  
pure, lovely, and of good reputation,  
you will not be happy.

(2). *Get a better perspective on your  
failings.* Some people are miserable  
because they choose to focus on all  
the mistakes they ever made. Every  
bad relationship. Every bad career  
move. Every bad parenting decision.  
If you think about your failings, you  
will always consider yourself a fail-  
ure. But if you focus on the fact that  
you are wonderfully made by God

(Psalm 139:14), you will feel like a  
valuable, special person. And you  
will be happier.

(3). *Count your blessings.* It sounds  
trite, but it is still the best remedy  
for a sour disposition. Things are  
never as bad as they seem. You are  
surrounded by God's blessings. You  
live in a house that is the envy of  
billions of people around the world.  
You have food options. You have  
access to information. Your cup runs  
over.

You will have many more bad days.  
You will be sad again. But there is a  
path to happiness, and you can con-  
trol it.

James Hayes

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