

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

## God's Activities

January 6, 2018

Issue 395

Isaiah made it clear that none of us has the mind of God (Isaiah 55:8). The mind of God is incomprehensible for man. The One "who made the world and all things in it" (Acts 17:24) is more powerful, more creative, and more knowledgeable than anything a human can imagine. He is intimately associated with man's condition, but totally separated from man's sins. God should be praised for who He is, what He did, and what He will do for us in the future.

But have you ever considered that there are some things God *cannot* do? And there are things that God will *sometimes* do? And there are things He will

*always* do?

(1). *God cannot lie* (Titus 1:2). A holy God cannot lie; if He could, He would be a cruel manipulator. We could not be faithful to Him if He were prone to lie. We would be foolish to place faith in One who had a track record of unfulfilled promises.

(2). *God honors your requests sometimes* (1 John 5:14). When Jesus was praying in agony in the garden prior to His crucifixion, He prayed that if it were possible, He wanted that "cup" to pass from Him (Matt. 26:39). But then He said, "...yet not as I will, but as You will." If your will and God's will do not align, you

should want God's will to prevail. God will not grant selfish requests. He will not accommodate sinful desires. He will bless our prayers...sometimes.

(3). *God will always love you* (Romans 8:35-39). After listing all the horrible things that could happen to man—famine, execution, persecution, etc.—Paul wrote that God will still love you. Your condition does not change His disposition. Wherever you may find yourself, know that God loves you unconditionally. Trust God with your life. He gave His Son's life for you.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Randy Gupton is in Centennial Hospital.
- Becky Rose's grandfather, Doyle Moore, Sr., passed away early Sunday morning. His funeral was Thursday.
- Leigh Smith's niece, Tracie Manley, had extensive surgery last week due to car accident.
- Mike Smith is still undergoing tests for an aneurysm.

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## Morning Sermon: "Defining Morality" Tonight's Sermon: "The Crown"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Brown

Pray: Baker

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: D. Demonbreum, J. Walker, Reed

Pray: John Hayes

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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

*Wes and Shelby Hovis' new address:  
65 Cross Cemetery Road  
Ardmore, TN 38449*

James 4:8  
"Draw near to God and He  
will draw near to you.  
Cleanse your hands, you  
sinners; and purify your  
hearts, you double-minded."

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

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## Misunderstandings Of Baptism

I recently attended a funeral at a Baptist church building. The auditorium (or sanctuary, as they would call it) was well-decorated and impressive. In the front, there were two Scriptures written in calligraphy on the walls. One was from Psalms, about singing praise to God. The other was Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." What a great verse! The gospel needs to be spread to all peoples, in all places. But it was interesting that the next verse was not used—"He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." There was an emphasis on spreading the gospel, but a lesser

interest in telling people how to respond to it.

During the eulogy, the pastor commended the deceased for being baptized, but he said, "He was baptized into the Baptist church at age..." It made me think, "Who in the Bible was baptized into the Baptist church?" None were, of course, because there was no Baptist church 2,000 years ago. Not only that, there is no passage of Scripture that teaches that one is baptized into a church. The only thing (person) we are "baptized into" is Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). Once we are baptized into Christ, the Lord *adds us* to the church (Acts 2:47).

Many believe that baptism is a work

of merit; therefore, it cannot be connected to our salvation. But the Bible never states that baptism is a work. What's more, if baptism were unnecessary for salvation, it would not have been taught in relation to salvation (Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; I Peter 3:21).

There is no need to be afraid to teach baptism the way the Bible teaches baptism. Baptism, along with faith, confession, and repentance, is a necessary response to the gospel, and it connects us to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. It is at baptism where are sins are washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

James Hayes

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