

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Imagine

**February 3, 2019**

**Issue 399**

In 1971, John Lennon released an album called "Imagine," with a hit single by the same name. The single peaked at number three on the Billboard 100 chart and became one of the most well-known songs in the history of popular music. Written during the depths of the Vietnam War, "Imagine" became an anthem for the "peace movement." But its lyrics, while seemingly idyllic and harmless, actually describe a world Christians should fear: "Imagine there's no heaven/It's easy if you try/No hell below us/Above us only sky/Imagine all the people living for today/Imagine there's no countries/It isn't

hard to do/Nothing to kill or die for/And no religion too/Imagine all the people living life in peace, you/You may say I'm a dreamer/But I'm not the only one/I hope some day you'll join us/And the world will be as one/Imagine no possessions/I wonder if you can/No need for greed or hunger/A brotherhood of man/Imagine all the people sharing all the world, you/You may say I'm a dreamer/But I'm not the only one/I hope someday you'll join us/And the world will be as one."

Nearly every line of that song is unbiblical. Nearly every line is an affront to

God's world and God's will. Lennon wanted us to imagine a world where there is no heaven, hell, religion, personal property, borders, nor defense of what is godly. In his mind, that is a utopian society. He repeats this line: "You may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one." On that, we can agree. He was definitely not the only one in the America of 1971 nor in the America of today who would consider that to be a perfect world. Resist the temptation to conform to this world (Rom. 12:2). Follow the narrow way that leads to life. Imagine a world where God's will reigns.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Sympathy is extended to Jearmie Gupton and his family on the loss of his father, Randy Gupton. Visitation is today from 1-8 at Anderson and Garrett Funeral Home and 10-11 on Monday. The funeral is 11:00 Monday.
- Lowell Gregory is recovering from back surgery at St. Thomas Hospital.
- JL Shelton is recovering from back surgery at home.

## Morning Sermon: "Examples Of Biblical Morality"

**Jeff Baker Will Preach Tonight; John Hayes Will Teach Wednesday**

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Gupton

Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

Serve: D. Demonbreum, J. Walker, Baker

Pray: Reed

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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

Psalm 19:7

“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

*Mani Pagidipalli reported these results for 2018:*

*3234 baptisms*

*80 church plants throughout India*

*75 evangelists graduated from our training program and are ministering in two dozen different districts.*

*290 free surgeries*

*1500 free dental procedures*

*30 free cataract surgeries*

*Chet and Rachel Duke's address:*

*24331 Town Walk Dr., Hamden, CT 06518.*

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## The Spectacular

The word “miracle” gets thrown around quite a bit, to the point it loses its meaning. If a baseball player hits a grand slam in the bottom of the ninth, it’s a miracle. If an “academically-challenged” student gets an “A” on a test, it’s a miracle. If there is sunny weather even though the weatherman predicted rain, it’s a miracle. And so on. “Miracle” has become a synonym for “spectacular.” But that is not at all what “miracle” means. Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “miracle” as: “an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs”; in other words, an event that cannot occur within the natural laws. So, a person’s birth is

not a miracle, but a *virgin birth* is a miracle. Landing a spacecraft on the moon is not a miracle; but if the astronauts traveled to the moon by flapping their arms really fast, that would have been a miracle. That is why we need to ignore the television faith-healers and Internet psychics. A preacher friend told me that in the 1970s he attended an event in Jackson, TN conducted by famed faith-healer, Oral Roberts. During the service, Roberts told everyone to stand, and as he prayed he said that everyone in the room had been healed of every illness, from the tops of their heads to the bottoms of their feet. As he left the event, my friend noticed that nearly

half of the attendees were still wearing their glasses. I guess Roberts couldn’t heal their near-sightedness or far-sightedness.

Bible miracles were conducted to confirm God’s message (example: the ten plagues) or God’s Man (Jesus). They served a specific purpose for a specific time. All the confirmation that was needed has already taken place. There is no need to look for miracles or define something as a miracle simply because it is spectacular. You just need to marvel at God’s handiwork and praise Him for His abundant blessings.

James Hayes

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