

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Wednesday Nights

February 17, 2019

Issue 401

In the late 1990s, I was doing a preaching internship at Madison church of Christ under Steve Flatt. During a staff meeting, we were discussing various aspects of Madison's Wednesday night program. One of the ministers said, "Let's take a step back and ask the question, 'What is the purpose of Wednesday night Bible study?'" Flatt replied half-jokingly, "It's a compunction of conscience test to see who the real Christians are." (I then proceeded to look up the definition of "compunction," which means "a feeling of guilt.") But is that all that Wednesday night Bible study is—a "have to" event that dem-

onstrates how faithful you are?

When we look into the New Testament, we see the early church meeting together regularly. The Jerusalem church met daily to some degree (Acts 2:46). They met for prayer during times of hardship (Acts Acts 12:12). And Christians met on the first day of the week to worship in various ways (I Cor. 11:17, 20; 16:1-2). The elders of a congregation are acting within the boundaries of Scripture to schedule a meeting of Christians on a Wednesday night, if they so choose.

The question then becomes: Are the members of

that congregation required to attend? It is a legitimate question, but let me answer it with another question: Why are you asking? The question suggests that one is trying to find a reason not to attend. It is like asking, "If I do not *have to be* there, then why *should I be* there?" But think about it: Is that the proper attitude for a Christian? Should we be trying to do the least for the Lord? Shouldn't we be striving to give our best and most to the one who died for us?

Wednesday night Bible study is a blessed opportunity to grow in your faith. Take advantage of it!

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Lowell Gregory is slowly recovering from back surgery at Richland Place.
- Our sympathy is extended to the family of 5-year-old Haleigh Peden, who passed away Wednesday. Her funeral was yesterday.
- Happy Haven contribution is today.
- Continue to remember in your prayers: Rick Reed, the Gupton family, and Mani Pagidipalli.

Morning Sermon: "You Are Not A Failure" Singing Tonight At 6:00

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: Baker

Pray: Reed

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Billingsley

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Brown, Gupton

Pray: John Hayes

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 have a new address:
27603 Bethel Rd.
Elkmont, AL 35620*

I John 3:18
“Little children, let us not
love with word or with
tongue, but in deed and
truth.”

Internal Struggles

As you read this statement, think about who might have said it: “For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.” Who does that sound like? You might think those are the thoughts of a young Christian or an old sinner. Maybe that was said by a prisoner, or an alcoholic at an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting. But no, the apostle Paul said that. That’s right—an apostle: a man who was personally commissioned by God to be a missionary to the Gentiles. He was a man who spent the last half of his life putting his life at risk for the cause of Christ. And it was that same man

who said that sometimes he does things he should not do. Later he wrote, “For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members” (Rom. 7:15, 22-23).

Satan does not take a day off. Every day he throws temptations in front of you. Every day he tries to trap you in a moment of spiritual weakness. That is why the same apostle who said he had serious internal struggles also said that we must fight against “the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Eph. 6:12). He did not wave the white flag of spiri-

tual surrender. He did not say, “Oh well, it would be easier for me to indulge my sinful desires. After all, God just wants me to be happy. Why fight it?”

Putting this all together, we can conclude that: (1) Every Christian, even the most faithful among us, will be tempted every day. (2) We must not blame God for temptation (James 1:13). Satan tempts each of us daily with things that our flesh desires. (3) Your internal spiritual struggle is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of humanity. But always remember that the same God who strengthened Elijah, Daniel, and Paul will strengthen you during the struggle.

James Hayes
