

Pleasant View Proclaimer

Pleasant View church of Christ

Freedom In Christ

March 3, 2019

Issue 403

There is a fundamental misunderstanding of grace in the greater Christian world. Some believe that grace gives them the freedom to sin, but grace actually gives us freedom *from* sin. This is not a new misunderstanding. It is as old as the New Testament. The first century Roman Christians thought that grace was a license to sin—the more they sinned, the more grace they got. They failed to realize that sin separated them from God. Sin was a transgression from God's will. Sin offended (offends) God. So, grace was not intended to be a way for man to indulge his flesh; it was a means by which we could be saved from the

wrath of God.

The apostle Paul corrected their misunderstanding in Romans 6:1-3: "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?" Later, in his epistle to Titus, he again needed to give clear instruction about grace to Titus as Titus dealt with gross immorality on the island of Crete. "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live

sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age" (Titus 2:11-12). Someone once said, "It's not that we think about sin too much—it's that we don't think about sin enough." In other words, do we really take the time to evaluate our actions to see if we are being faithful to God's will? Or do we let Satan toy with emotions and numb us to the reality of sin?

This week, remember the words of Paul from the Romans passage: "How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" Be diligent to fulfill God's will for your life. Do not give the devil a foothold into your heart.

James Hayes

Items of Note:

- Lowell Gregory had surgery again on his back and is recovering at St. Thomas-Midtown.
- Many of our number have been sick lately, including Maime Hamilton, Patricia Stroud, Keith Walker, Ivan Helton, and Kim and Faye Waller.
- Daylight Savings Time begins next Saturday night!
- Remember to pray for Mani Pagilipalli and other preachers in foreign countries.

Morning Sermon: "Is It Possible To Lose Your Salvation?"

Evening Sermon: "The Problem With Forgiveness"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: John Hayes

Pray: Smith

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Gupton

Serve: D. Demonbreum, E. Walker, Reed

Pray: Billingsley

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

Proverbs 12:19
"Truthful lips will be
established forever, but a
lying tongue is only for the
moment."

This year's Gospel Meeting with Coopertown will be July 7-10, with Mike McPherson as the speaker. Mike has spoken at Pleasant View twice and been well-received both times. His theme will be "Maintaining My Faith When..." He will address serious issues of life that challenge one's faith. Mike has personally experienced the things he will discuss. It will be a great week! Mark your calendars!

Be Prepared

Years ago I was reading *Hardball* by political pundit, Chris Matthews. It chronicled his life as an operative in the Democrat Party, and it gave an insight into the political process. In one of the chapters, Matthews stressed the importance of being ready for the "lightning strike." He said that in politics there is scandal after scandal, newflash after newflash, resignation after resignation. Those are the lightning strikes—the unpredictable events that might change your life. So you have to be ready.

What is true in politics is also true in life in general. We have to be ready for the lightning strikes. Here are a few life events that could hap-

pen on any given day. Will you be ready?

(1). *Financial turmoil.* How long could you live without a paycheck? Many people—both rich and poor—live paycheck to paycheck. Their accounts are at \$0.00 at the end of every pay cycle. When the financial lightning strikes, how long will you be able to live on your savings and other accounts?

(2). *Meeting new people.* As they say, "You only get one chance to make a first impression." How do you present yourself each day? Do you take care of your appearance? Are you careful with your words? You never know when you might meet that future employer, future spouse, or

future neighbor.

(3). *The Lord's return.* Most importantly (of course), you should be ready for the coming of the Lord. The Bible is clear that Jesus's return will be like a thief in the night—unannounced. You will be where you are, doing what you are doing. Are you ready for that day? How is your relationship with God? Are you walking in the light?

The Boy Scouts of America emphasize a simple phrase to their scouts: "Be Prepared." Life's emergencies are much easier to navigate if one is ready for the lightning strikes.

James Hayes
