

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Who Is Satan?

I wish Satan looked evil. I wish he resembled the cartoon caricature version—red, wiry body, pointed tail, and sharp teeth. I wish he carried a trident and hissed when he talked. But life is not that easy. Satan does not look scary—quite the contrary. He did not look frightening when he tempted the woman in the garden. Paul stated that “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light” (II Cor. 11:14). So, it is important for us to know the real Satan, not the cartoon version.

The Bible calls Satan the adversary (I Pet. 5:8), Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24), the enemy (Matt. 13:28), the evil one (Matt. 13:19), and

the ruler of this world (John 12:31), among other things. He afflicted Job and others in the biblical age (Luke 13:16), and Jesus went about “healing all that were oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10:38). But Satan’s activities were limited (Job 1:12); when we resist him, he flees (James 4:7). Although God created all things and all things were “good,” Satan rebelled at some point and became an enemy of God. He and other angels who fell were “committed...to pits of darkness, to be reserved for judgment” (II Peter 2:4).

Does Satan control people today? No. There is a difference between *presence* and *possession*. It is clear that

Satan and his demons were allowed to possess the bodies of individuals during the biblical era. This enabled Jesus to cast them out and thereby demonstrate His power of the spirit world. Beyond those few isolated instances, the New Testament teaches that Satan no longer possesses people, but today he deceives (II Cor. 2:11), lies (John 8:44), tempts (Matt. 4:3), and accuses (Rev. 12:10).

When God’s word is in your heart, you will be strengthened when you face Satan (Psalm 119:11). Don’t give him a foothold into your heart (Eph. 4:27).

James Hayes

**March 31, 2019**

**Issue 408**

### Items of Note:

- Lowell Gregory was taken to the ER last weekend. He is now continuing his rehabilitation.
- We will have a fellowship meal after church this morning. Please attend a local congregation tonight. No service here.
- Hillcrest Nursing Home service next Sunday afternoon at 2:30.
- Pray for Paula Lee, the Mead family, Rick Reed, Clyde Craig, and Steve Buchanan.

## Morning Sermon: “A Woman Anoints Jesus” Meal After Morning Service; No Service Here Tonight

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School

Read: J. Buchanan

Pray: John Hayes

Morning Worship

Wait on the Table: Brown

Serve: D. Demonbreum, Billingsley, Smith

Pray: J. Walker

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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

Genesis 1:1  
“In the beginning, God  
created the heavens and the  
earth.”

*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!*

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## You Are Not...

It is not self-deprecating to acknowledge your limitations. You are a human being. Even though you were made in God's image, you are prone to sin. You think the wrong things, say the wrong things, and do the wrong things...often. If not for the grace of God, you would be punished for eternity for violating God's will. Let's examine a few other areas of limitation:

(1). *You are not all-knowing.* You do not have all the answers. You are just a bystander on the side of life's road, watching the parade go by. You can only see so far in each direction. It is better to be quick to hear, and slow to think you know it all.

(2). *You are not all-powerful.* Men

seem to be more likely than women to adopt the "hero complex"—the belief that he can fix any problem. He can say the right thing that makes his children be perfectly obedient. He can fix any broken item in the house. He can force church members and co-workers to bend to his will on any matter. But he quickly becomes frustrated when he realizes that he cannot control time and space.

(3). *You are not ever-present.* You cannot be two places at once. You must prioritize your activities. Filling your schedule with menial tasks will turn you into a Martha instead of a Mary.

You will be stressed, inefficient, and wonder why you never feel fulfilled.

It is better to do what you can, with what you have, where you are. Do not strive to control uncontrollable things.

In other words, you are not God. God is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. There is nothing more powerful than God. That is why Scripture states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil" (Prov. 3:5-7).

James Hayes

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