

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

August 6, 2023

<div>Welcome!</div> <div></div> <div><p>"For You are my lamp, O Lord; the Lord shall enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop; By my God I can leap over a wall."</p></div> <div><p>We welcome Ken Palmer who will be bringing us our lessons today!</p></div> <div><p>-----</p><p>Minister: Timothy Agee timothy@teamagee.com 615-330-8652</p></div>	<div>Prayer List</div> <div><p>Several of our number are recovering from recent covid cases. Keith Walker in particular has been in ICU with it.</p><p>Steve Buchanan is recovering from kidney stone surgery</p><p>Our sympathies to the family of Brian Armstrong, father of a friend of Sam Baker, who passed away last week</p><p>Maria Hunter Harrington is dealing with weakness and unable to drive because of her treatment</p><p>Steve Webb has started his chemotherapy</p><p>Diane Singleton continues to struggle with her health</p><p>Continue to pray for: Kristine Garrett, Bige Shepherd, Forshia Pennington, Carol Saling, Keith Walker, Camille Brosky, those in Ukraine; Judy Cook, the Brown family, John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Weston Johnson and Bill Gillock</p></div>	<div><p><i>We invite everyone to join us Wednesday night at 7:00 when James Hayes will bring us a lesson from John 8:1-11</i></p></div> <div>Serving Today</div> <div><p>Song Leader: Jeff Baker</p><p>SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)</p><p>Scripture Reading: Johnny Walker</p><p>Prayer: Ricky Mayo</p><p>WORSHIP (10:30 am)</p><p>Scripture Reading: David Billingsley</p><p>Wait On Table: Jearmie Gupton</p><p>Serve: Johnny Walker Josh Demonbreun</p><p>Prayer: Dwight Pennington</p></div>							
<div>Service Times</div> <div><table><tr><td>Sunday Bible Study</td><td>9:30 am</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday AM Worship</td><td>10:30 am</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday PM Worship</td><td>6:00 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday Bible Study</td><td>7:00 pm</td></tr></table></div>	Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am	Sunday AM Worship	10:30 am	Sunday PM Worship	6:00 pm	Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm	<div>Follow Us</div> <div><div></div><div>pleasantviewcoc</div><div>pleasantviewchurchofchrist.net</div></div>
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Young People and the Word of God *by Timothy Agee*

In the midst of a culture filled with things like smartphones, social media, and streaming video, churches across the country are struggling with how to attract and retain young people within their congregations. In this context, the church is sometimes viewed as a relic that has trouble relating to the younger generation.

In response to this issue, some churches have embraced a strategy that has watered down the message of the gospel, and relies heavily on entertainment and social interaction to appeal to young adults. They emphasize the “experience” without the “religion.” They try to make the church “cool” by changing it to look more like the world. But, if we do not take the time to teach them the Bible, can this approach possibly lead to an authentic relationship with Christ and his word? Will they find answers to the deepest questions about their faith and be prepared to face the world with all of its dangers? Will they ever be motivated to take ownership of a faith that has been passed on by their parents?

When facing this challenge, it is important to realize that the church, as established on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), is still relevant today without our intervention. When we *attempt* to make it **more** relevant for today’s young adults, we may actually make it **less** relevant by taking the focus off the most important things, therefore compounding the problem. Young adults are smart enough to see through things that are superficial. If we try to use entertainment, they will move on to something else once there is a better alternative. If we try to make the church appear more like the culture, they will quickly see it as a cheap imitation. If we only present them with a shallow representation of the word, then they will look for something else to fill the void, and will quickly be “devoured,” “scorched,” or “choked” by the influence of the world (parable of the sower in Matthew 13:4-7).

Recent research supports the notion that young Christians are looking for more biblical substance within their churches. In *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith* (Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, 2011; Kindle Locations 1771-1772, 3036-3047) Dave Kinnaman, President of The Barna Group, reports on a five-year study they completed in 2011, which explored the reasons why young adults leave churches. In this study, they found that 59% of young Christians disconnect either permanently or for an extended period of time from church life after age 15. Of those surveyed, 23% said “[t]he Bible is not taught clearly or often enough,” and 20% said “God seems missing from my experience of church.” The study of God’s word is so important for the development of mature Christians, that the apostle Paul made it a strong point of emphasis to the young preacher Timothy, as part of his final letter in the New Testament (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Regardless of the method utilized in reaching out to young adults, the church must maintain an emphasis on building a lasting relationship with Christ through consistent Bible study and life application. Instead of dumbing down the message to the point where it is unrecognizable, we must treat young adults as intelligent individuals who are looking for Biblical answers to their deepest questions. If the church fails to do this, someone out in the world will be more than willing to jump in and fill the gap with something other than Biblical truth. The same Barna Group study shows that young Christians are desperate for answers: 36% said they “don’t feel that [they] can ask [their] most pressing life questions in church.” 24% said “[f]aith is not relevant to [their] career or [their] interests.” 23% said they have “significant intellectual doubts about [their] faith.”

Young adults who are struggling with issues of doubt, questions regarding their faith, or questions of how the Bible applies to life outside the church are not finding a hospitable place for addressing these issues. They are actually afraid of the consequences of voicing their doubts and questions. We must respond by providing them with an environment where they are encouraged to share their struggles and doubts, receive Biblical answers to questions regarding their faith, and consistently hear the fundamental teachings from scripture.

In some cases, a church may NOT have ministry leaders or teachers who are equipped to provide the right type of instruction or answers to these tough questions. With this in mind, see our back bulletin board for a resource list that can help provide a structure for Biblically based classes or personal study.

Young People and the Word of God (Resource List)

Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

- *Baptism 101: What the Bible Says About Baptism* by Tim Alsup
- *Waves of Change: A Guidebook for Helping Young Christians Deal with Change in the Church* by Kyle Butt and Stan Butt Jr.
- *What Do I Do With A Mustard Seed? A Teen's Guide to Christian Faith* by Phillip Eichman
- *How do You Know the Bible is from God?* by Kyle Butt
- *Starting Line: How to Run the Christian Race* by Will Harrub and Brad Harrub
- *Am I Ready to be Baptized?* by Kyle Butt and John Farber

Answering Tough Questions of Faith

- *Hard Questions Real Answers* by William Lane Craig
- *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask (with Answers)* by Mark Mittelberg
- *The Big Book of Bible Difficulties* by Norman Geisler
- *The Anvil Rings: Answers to alleged Bible discrepancies* by Eric Lyons
- *Is God a Moral Monster: Making Sense of the Old Testament God* by Paul Copan
- *Fortify Your Faith* by Wayne Jackson
- *Always be Ready - Equipping Young People to Deal with Unbelief* by Kyle Butt
- *The Bible on Trial* by Wayne Jackson
- *Helpful Tools as You Begin Your Christian Life* by Jeff Miller, Ph.D.

Christian Evidences or Apologetics

- *Reasons to Believe* by Chad Ramsey
- *In God's Image* by Chad Ramsey
- *God's Words: Perfect, Reliable and True* by Bret Carter
- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* by Norman Geisler
- *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision* by William Lane Craig
- *Convicted - A Scientist Examines the Evidence for Christianity* by Brad Harrub
- *Dinosaurs Those Terrible Lizards* by Duane T. Gish
- *The Case For Christ* by Lee Strobel
- *Icons of Evolution: Science or Myth?* by Jonathan Wells
- *Dinosaurs Unleashed* by Kyle Butt and Eric Lyons
- *The Dinosaur Delusion* by Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt
- *Flooded* by Jeff Miller, Ph.D.