

THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

November 22, 2015

"BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT"

PLEASANT PLAINS CHURCH OF CHRIST

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

The Folly Of Trying To Please Everyone

From Aesop's Fables is this story with a great moral—*The Man, The Boy, and The Donkey*.

A man and his son were once going with their donkey to market. As they were walking along by its side a countryman passed them and said: "You fools, what is a donkey for but to ride upon?" So the man put the boy on the donkey and they went on their way.

But soon they passed a group of men, one of whom said: "See that lazy youngster, he lets his father walk while he rides." So the man ordered his boy to get off, and got on himself. But they hadn't gone far when they passed two women, one of whom said to the other: "Shame on that lazy lout to let his poor little son trudge along." Well, the man didn't know what to do, but at last he took his boy up before him on the donkey. By this time they had come to the town, and the passers-by began to jeer and point at them. The man stopped and asked what they were scoffing at. The men said: "Aren't you ashamed of yourself for overloading that poor donkey of yours—you and your hulking son?" The man and boy got off and tried to think what to do. They thought and they thought, till at last they cut down a pole, tied the donkey's feet to it, and raised the pole and the donkey to their shoulders. They went along amid the laughter of all who met them till they came to Market Bridge, when the donkey, getting one of his feet loose, kicked out and caused the boy to drop his end of the pole. In the struggle the donkey fell over the bridge, and his fore-feet being tied together he was drowned "That will teach you," said an old man who had followed them: "*Please all, and you will please none.*"

The lesson from this ancient Greek story-teller is as applicable today as it was 2500 years ago. It's impossible to please everyone. This is true in sports, government, business and even in the Lord's church. Coaches, politicians, and CEO's as well as preachers and pastors who try to please everyone, appease every opinion, and placate every personal whim or fancy by the masses, will eventually please no one. And like the characters in the fable will probably see their donkey drown.

From a spiritual perspective our foremost desire should be to please the Lord. Paul expressed it with these rhetorical questions: "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man?" His response was simple, "If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). Not everyone will be pleased with the Truth. Some deny it. Others don't like to hear it. And many disregard it. Yet Pastors, Preachers, and Bible Teachers must base their teaching and their decisions on the revealed Word of God. Neither customs, culture or circumstances change what is right.

Of course, there are many things in the realm of scriptural expediency. Means and methods of ministry vary from church to church and preacher to preacher. You will never have 100% agreement in a congregation regarding a specific area of judgment. Someone always has a different opinion. A better idea. A better way to do it. A better way to say it.

There probably is a kernel of truth in every criticism. The trick is to look for it and profit from it. However, critics will drive you crazy, if you let them. Dr. Charles Lever was right when he wrote, "There comes a time in our lives when we have to tune out the antagonists and follow our own advice."

We are so grateful that you have made the decision to join our family, today, as we worship our Almighty God! If you have any questions or inquiries, please feel free to ask any of our members and we would be more happy to answer as best we can! Please accept our invitation to join us, again, when you have the opportunity.

John Mason offered excellent insight when he said, "The first great commandment about critics is, "Don't let them scare you." Or as the wise man wrote, "The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that" (Prov 29:25).

When we accept that it's impossible to please everyone, then it's easier to deal with it. After all, the donkey you save, may be your own!

-Ken Weliever, thepreachersword.com



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday AM Notes 11-22-2015

Take Time
to be **THANKFUL**

1 Thessalonians 5:18

God _____ for _____ to be _____.

There are _____ to be _____ in all of

_____.

Being _____ is a step in the right _____

towards learning _____.



Speaker:

NICK ANGEL

Sunday PM Notes 11-22-2015

3 Ways to Improve Society

_____ for _____.

_____ the _____

_____ our _____

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Our Preacher

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Times of Worship & Bible Study

Sunday:

9:30 AM Bible Study

10:30 AM Worship Service: You can expect heart felt singing, reverent prayer, preaching from the Word of God, a focused and reverent observance of the Lord's Supper, and an opportunity for the saints of Pleasant Plains to give back to the Lord.

5:00 PM Worship Service

Wednesday:

7:00 PM Bible Study and Worship

Weekly Attendance

Last Sunday AM Worship.....102
Last Sunday PM Worship.....78
Last Wednesday Bible Study.....##

In Our Prayers

RECENT ADDITIONS/UPDATES:

-Christy Bennett's Nephew Logan... was able to go home for a little bit, but was then quickly taken back to the hospital with serious complications. Please continue to pray for this young man and his family.

-Family of Daniel Ellis... Daniel was recently murdered while on duty as a police officer in Richmond, KY. He was a member of the East End Church of Christ in Lexington and leaves behind a wife and 3 yr old son. Please remember that family and church in your prayers.

-Barbara Leonard...really struggling with her health. Please be praying for her and let's see what we can do to assist her with food or other needs.

-Keller Stephens (Kathy Raines' Uncle)...please continue your prayers for Keller that he is able to recover to the extent that he can be baptized into the Body of Christ.

CONTINUED PRAYERS:

*****Our expecting mothers: Melanie Siedenstrang, Melessa Sain, & Spring McDonald.*****

-Christian Shadburn...20 yr. old Christian battling cancer.

-Stephanie Still (Becky Waddell's cousin)... dealing with numerous health issues.

-Robin Hill..... battling cancer.

-Jamie Neal and family (Nancy Phillips' friend)...Battling Melanoma.

-Ashley Pickens (Brent Holt's cousin)... Battling Cancer.

-Louise Stitt (Amy Gailey's mother) ... Battling leukemia..

-Pray for the work of this church. The fields are white & we need to be hard at work to spread the Gospel to as many lost souls as possible.

-Men & women making the sacrifice to protect the freedoms of this country.

If you have any updates or additions to the prayer list, please see Nick (in person, phone call, text, or email) so we can keep the bulletin up to date.

Pleasant Plains News

Upcoming Pleasant Plains'

Bible Studies & Events

Song Practice - December 6th at the Angel's house directly following evening service. Song Leaders: please be thinking about songs that you would like to learn/practice.

Men's Bible Class - December 5th at Panera Bread at 7:30am.

Ladies Class - December's class details to be announced soon

Young People's Study - *TONIGHT* at the Angel's Home directly following our evening service.

Area Gospel Meetings & Events

©Seeing God Through Science: A Study with Buddy Payne at the East Shelby Church of Christ... December 5th, 6th. Saturday Singing at 4:00 & Study at 4:30.

Daily Bible Reading For This Week: Ezra 1-4; Haggai; Zechariah 1-8; Psalm 92, 93, 138; John 21; I John 1-4
Please make an effort to be in daily reading and meditation of God's Word! It's never too late to join your brothers and sisters of Pleasant Plains as we dive into God's Word. Read the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament or any combination of the three and glorify God in your study and growth in 2015!