



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 38

April 12, 2020

Number 15

Schedule of Services

- All worship
- services are suspended until further notice.

Elders

- Mike Ernstberger
270-753-2108 Home
270-293-7027 Cell
- James Pigg
270-759-2145 Home
270-293-2319 Cell

Deacons

- Larry Enoch
- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison
Cell: 270-978-7569

Supporting Works

India—Dale Foster, David Nance, and Ronnie Gootam
McKenzie, TN—Paul Jones

Location

- Green Plain Church of Christ
3980 Murray Paris Road
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone: (270) 492-8206
- Email: greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org

“Quarantined Worship” Recommended Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



By

Don Blackwell

WHEN GOD IS NOT THERE *By Victor Eskew*

When we became Christians, we entered into a very special relationship with God. He became our Father. We learned how much He loved us. We were taught how much He cares for us. We were taught that He walks with us throughout the day, and that He watches over us at night. We found that we can talk with Him in prayer at any time. What a blessing we received. We were privileged to have a wonderful fellowship with deity.

Then it happened. We went through a very difficult time. We were shaken. We were heartbroken. We were in grief. We faced sadness and loneliness. The joy of our Christian life was not there the way it was in times past. We cried to God. We cried to God again. We read the

Scriptures and continue to cry to God. We continued to live for Him. We worshipped Him. We prayed and prayed. In all of this, God was just not there. There were no answers to our prayers. There was no comfort given to our hearts. We asked ourselves over and over: “Where is God?”

Perhaps you have been in this type of situation. Let’s address the thought: “When God Is Not There.”

First, when God is not there the times are usually very hard. Famine is in the land. Sickness has afflicted our body or the body of a loved one. Our enemies are persecuting us. Death has raised its ugly head to torment us. When times are

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NEWS AND NOTES

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** . Remember Faye Travis, Peggy Jarvis, Rex Enoch, Margarette Enoch (Spring Creek), Mary Crutchfield, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, Jesse & Mary Vincent, Carolyn Byars (now home) and Dave & Ann Thompson. **Family and Friends:** Pat Hocking, Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, Will Winchester, Jim Hutson, Janice Canter, Maryanne Pedigrew, Dale Foster, Andrea Phillips, Donald and Dorothy Cook and two week old Hollis Stubblefield, the son of Mark and Shelley, who, as of this writing is hospitalized suffering from pneumonia. Please continue to pray for each of these and for those tending to their needs as well as the leaders of our nation in this time of crisis.
- **FROM THE ELDERS:** We wish to continue to meet our financial obligations as a congregation of God's people including those we are supporting in mission fields and paying utilities, etc. Please consider sending your weekly contributions by mail directly to James Pigg at 2220 Glenwood Drive Murray, KY 42071. Although we do not know how long our present situation will continue, we encourage you to continue to pray for a quick resolution and that God's will be done in all things. If you need any help please do not hesitate to contact us.
- **OUR BULLETIN:** We hope you are enjoying receiving our weekly bulletin. We will continue to mail the bulletin each week until the present situation changes. If you have any information that needs to be included in the bulletin please email us at greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org or call 270-978-7569.
- **Pantry items April: Items may be left under the carport, or put into the building for those with a key.** 5-Carrots; 12—Green Beans; 19—Pork-n-Beans; 26—Peaches. All food items should be canned. Thanks to all for participating in this effort.
- **PASS IT ON!** When you have finished reading this bulletin, why not pass it on to a loved one, friend or neighbor. Use this as a tool to spread the gospel.
- **See our Facebook page** for announcements, updates and articles. Access to past editions of this bulletin are available on our website at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org>.
- **Mission Work:** Please continue to pray for the preachers this congregation is supporting in India and for Dale Foster, Ronnie Gootan, David Nance, Mike Kiser, Arnold Gerson and Paul Jones in their respective works.
- **APRIL 2020 Anniversaries:** None **Birthdays:** 3rd—Mary Lowrie; 8th—Katelyn Canter; 24th—David Thompson; 27th—Steve Enoch; 29th—Sue Hall.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Gospel Broadcasting Network
<https://gbntv.org/>
 World Video Bible School
<https://store.wvbs.org/wvbs-splashpage.html>
 A Bible Answer
<https://abibleanswertv.org/>
 Good News Today
<http://gnttv.org/>
 Dexter church of Christ
www.facebook.com/Dexterkyoc/
 Coldwater church of Christ
www.facebook.com/Coldwater-Church-of-Christ-170296152984011/ and on YouTube
 In Search of the Lord's Way
<http://searchtv.org/>



BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION

This Week: With what did God clothe the bodies of Adam and Eve?

Lat Week: What were the names of Job's friends who came to comfort him?

Answer : Job's friends were Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. (Job 2:11).

Email us your answer and we will include the names of those who answered correctly in next week's bulletin.

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good, we never doubt the presence of God. We bow our heads and thank Him for all the blessings that He has given us. It is during times of trouble that it seems as though God is not there. When we read the psalms, the inspired writer often cries out: "How long, O Lord?" (Ps. 6:3; 13:1; 80:4; 90:13). As we look deeper into his question, we find that he is facing adverse circumstances. In Psalm 6:7, he writes: "Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies." In Psalm 13:3-4, he says: "Consider and hear me, O Lord my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved." Hard times prevailed in the life of the poet. And, he thought that God was not there. "How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?" (Ps. 13:1).

Second, when God is not there, we doubt. Where is God? I thought He promised to be with me. I was taught that He would hear and answer my prayers. I thought He loves me and cares for me. I have been faithful to Him. I have lived a righteous life. I have not been involved in sin. Yes, we examine ourselves and find no fault. We look up to God, but with doubts about His promises to us. We become like Job in our trials. We long to talk to God. In Job 13:3, Job speaks these words: "Surely I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to reason with God." In the opening verses of Job 23, Job states: "Even today is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning. Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat! I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which he would answer me, and

understand what he would say unto me" (vs. 2-5).

Third, when we think God is not there, we are wrong. We think God is not there for two reasons. One, we cannot see Him. Second, He does not respond in the manner in which we think He should respond. God, however, is present. He sees everything we are experiencing. After Joseph's death, his memory was not long lived. In Exodus 1:8, we read: "Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph." This king feared Israel. He placed them under severe bondage. This bondage lasted for years and years. Where was God? He was right there. When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He spoke these words to him: "Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them" (Exo. 3:9). The persecution was extreme. It lasted for years. Why didn't God respond? Where was He? He was there. He was carrying out things according to His timing. When we are afflicted, we need to remember the bondage of the Israelites. They suffered, but God was near. He is near unto us as well.

Fourth, when God appears not to be there, He really is. He has promised that He will be with us. "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5b). Dear reader, God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2). Yes, we need to remember that He is there. He has His reasons for not immediately intervening in our lives. Part of the answer as to why God did not redeem Israel out of Egyptian bondage immediately is found way back in Genesis 15. God was speaking to Abraham about his offspring. Listen to what God revealed to the patriarch: "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in land that

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COME VISIT WITH US

The church building is located southeast of Murray one mile off highway 641 - Near the corner of the Green Plain and Murray Paris Roads. We look forward to seeing you!
A warm and friendly welcome awaits!

**GOSPEL
BORADCASSTING
NETWORK
THE GOSPEL 24/7
GBNTV.ORG**

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is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance...But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full” (Gen. 15:13-16). Notice how God ends His statement: “...for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.” The Amorites lived in the land of Canaan. God would not punish a people before they deserved punishment. Thus, He waited to bring Israel out of bondage until the appropriate time to destroy the Amorites. The lesson is that God always has His reasons for waiting.

There may be times in our lives when we feel God is not there. These are the difficult


times of life. The struggles cause us to doubt and wonder. My friend, when you think God is not there, remember you are wrong. God is there. Remember, too, that God’s plans and purposes for our life are greater than our own. Thus, we must trust him. We mentioned Psalm 13 previously. The psalm opens with words of doubt regarding God’s presence. Listen, however, to the last two verses of the psalm: “But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing unto the Lord, because he hath dealt bountifully with me” (Ps. 13:5-6). God’s ways certainly are not our ways. We may doubt that He is really there. But, we must allow our faith in God to prevail. We must trust in His mercy. Ultimately, He will deal bountifully with us.

—Oceanside church of Christ, Florida

Genesis 6:13-22 **The Ark & the Church** **Matthew 16:18**



Those in the Ark were saved
Today, the Saved are in the Church



BUILDER: NOAH		BUILDER: CHRIST
GOPHER WOOD	← ONE MATERIAL →	• 1 Peter 2:5
WINDOW	← ONE LIGHT →	• Psalm 119:105
DOOR	← ONE ENTRANCE →	• John 10:9
NOAH'S	← ONE FAMILY →	• Ephesians 3:15
EACH OF EIGHT	← ONE NAME →	• Acts 11:26
BUILDING	← ONE BUILDING →	• Ephesians 3:19
SAVED IN ARK	← ONE'S SALVATION →	• Galatians 3:27
LIFE IN NEW WORLD	← ONE HOPE →	1 Peter 1:3-4

When God says "ONE" that means SINGULAR!!
When God says "ONE" that excludes the PLURAL!

Barnes' Bible Charts