



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

May 23, 2021

Number 20

## Schedule of Services

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:50 am  
and 6:00 pm
- Wednesday Bible  
Study 7:00 pm

## 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](mailto:greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE! *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Our life on this earth is brief. The book of James emphasizes the brevity of life in the words of James 4:14, *"For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."* Like steam rising from a kettle only to quickly dissipate, our physical lives are quickly over. Older folks can especially relate to what James writes about life. Looking back, we older folks can hardly grasp how quickly our lives have passed. We wonder, "where did the time go?" "How did I grow old so quickly?" If the Lord allows this world to continue, every young person now living will one day be asking these very same questions. Yes,, "Swiftly we're turning life's daily pages, Swiftly the hours are changing to years; How are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory? Shall we reap tears?"

Jesus told a parable that should be a comfort to those who are older and whose journey on this earth is coming ever closer to an end. The parable is recorded in Matthew 20:1ff. The gist of the parable is this: a landowner goes out early in the morning to hire laborers to work in his vineyard.

He hires them and agrees on a certain payment for their labors. Later he goes out at the third, the sixth, the ninth and finally the eleventh hour and hired additional laborers each time telling them, "whatever is right, you will receive."

At the end of the day his steward pays the laborers, beginning from the last to the first hired, the very same amount. Those hired first complained that this was not fair for they had worked longer in the vineyard than the others. But the landowner answered, *'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'* So the last will be first, and the first last. *For many are called, but few chosen.*" (Matthew 20:13-16).

This parable was spoken in view of Peter's question in Matthew 19:27, *"Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You.*

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## NEWS AND NOTES

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** Faye Travis, Peggy Jarvis, Rex Enoch, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, Carolyn Byars, and Mary and Jim Lowrie.

**Family and Friends:** Helen Tidwell, Jenne Pool, Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, Janice Canter, Andrea Phillips, Donald and Dorothy Cook, Sandra Cook Downs, Kevin Smith, Dale Pentecost, Jaime Aguavo, Jr., Brett Wyatt, and Kerry Thompson. Please let us know of those who have improved or any one who needs to be added to this list.

- **OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of our sister in Christ, Mary Crutchfield who passed from this life this past week. Mary faithfully served the Lord by the side of her husband Dean for many years and participating in taking the gospel to India in a number of ways through the years. Please keep this family in your prayers.
- **PANTRY ITEMS May 2021:** 2—Paper Towels; 9—Sweet Pickles 16—Canned Beets; 23—Creamed Corn; 30— Spaghetti. Please bring any additional items you wish for the “blessing box” which is located next to the breezeway on the north side of the building.
- **May 2021 Anniversaries:** 16-Charles & Betty Enoch **Birthdays:** 19-Peyton Smith; 24-Charles Enoch; 27-Ann Thompson; 29-Mary Vincent. If we have left anyone out please let us know.
- **Study the Bible in Your Own Home.** Enroll in a Completely **Free Bible Correspondence Course.** Send your name, complete mailing address and phone number to: Green Plain church of Christ—3980 Murray Paris Road—Hazel, KY 42049 or enroll online at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org> or email [greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org](mailto:greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org).
- **Hope is the anchor of the soul (Hebrews 6:19). Do you have this hope? Let us tell you more about it. Contact us for a home Bible study.**

## ONLINE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

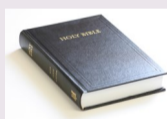
Gospel Broadcasting Network  
<https://gbntv.org/>

World Video Bible School  
<https://store.wvbs.org/wvbs-splashpage.html>

A Bible Answer  
<https://abibleanswertv.org/>

Good News Today  
<http://gnttv.org/>

In Search of the Lord's Way  
<http://searchtv.org/>



## TODAY'S SERMONS

**AM:** “Why God Loves You”

**PM:** “The Old & New  
Priesthood”

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*Therefore what shall we have?"* Peter obviously thought that he and the other apostles deserved special treatment or an extra reward because they had already sacrificed much to follow Jesus. But the parable of the laborers teaches that no matter when one makes up his or her mind to follow Jesus, no matter how much or how little one must sacrifice to do so, the eternal reward received will be equally given to all.

Dear reader, if you have yet to make

the decision to follow Jesus by obeying the gospel, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! No matter if you are young or older, if you have the ability to believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24), turn from your sins in genuine repentance (Acts 17:30), confess your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), be immersed in water into the death of Jesus for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4), and faithfully serve the Lord the rest of your days, you too may receive "whatever is right!"

## WITHDRAWING FELLOWSHIP IS NOT DISOWNING

By Victor Eskew

The Bible teaches that there are certain individuals from whom we are to withdraw fellowship. Some of these are listed below:

1. Those who teach false doctrine and bring division to the body of Christ ([Rom. 16:17-18](#))
2. Members of the church who engage in acts of immorality ([I Cor. 5:11](#))
3. The unfruitful works of darkness ([Eph. 5:11](#))
4. Those who walk disorderly and not after the apostolic traditions ([II Thess. 3:10](#))
5. Those who will not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ ([I Tim. 6:3-5](#))
6. Heretics ([Tit. 3:10-11](#))
7. Those who transgress the doctrine of Christ ([II John 9-11](#))

There are other passages that could also be listed, but these are the primary ones that reveal particular persons who are not to be fellowshiped by those who are spiritual.

It is easily seen that the New Testament teaches a great deal about the subject of church discipline. The problem arises when churches

and individuals must apply these teachings within the local congregation. Almost all of us know individuals who fall into one of these categories. In some instances, these people are close friends or family members. Because of these close ties, members of the church react in opposition to the truth instead of doing as Abraham did when commanded to offer Isaac ([Gen. 22:3](#)), and immediately obeying God. Some will plainly say that they will never obey such a teaching. Some will point to others who have disobeyed God in this area in order to justify their disobedience. Rationalizations and justifications will be presented in an attempt to nullify the truth. Various scenarios will be presented in an attempt to show that there are occasions when the proclaimer of truth would not obey the command to withdraw.

One of the thoughts that some have when it comes to withdrawing from family members is that when we withdraw from them, we are "disowning" them. This is not what the Bible teaches on this matter. Withdrawal has to do with our close associations with the one in error. We are not to continue any ties that would lead the erring brother to think that we support his sin or false teaching. Paul reveals that social fellowship is one element of the withdrawal. "... with such an one no not to eat" ([I Cor.](#)

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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!

**TRUTH.FM**  
*Internet Radio*  
*Download App or*  
*listen online*  
<https://www.truth.fm/>

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[5:11](#)). The individual withdrawn from must feel that something has been taken away from him, namely, his close associations with his brothers and sister in Christ.

Does this command present some hardships? Certainly. We are no longer allowed to go out on Sunday afternoons to have lunch with this person. During the holidays, these individuals are not permitted to be part of our gatherings. We can no longer go to the movies or on vacation with this individual. Again, this person must feel that he has lost something very important. It is hoped that this withdrawal will have a profound impact on the sinner's life. Paul put it in these words: "To deliver such an one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" ([I Cor. 5:5](#)).

Do the actions mentioned in the preceding paragraph indicate that we have completely disowned the loved one? No, not in the least. We must continue to have lines of communication with this person. The communication, however, is to have a specific purpose. We are to rebuke ([Eph. 5:11](#)) and admonish them to cease their sinful activities and live godly lives ([II Thess. 3:15](#)). We are also permitted to render any necessary assistance to this individual when he is in need. If not, we would not be fulfilling the command to love. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him" ([I John 3:17](#)). We can also fulfill any responsibilities that our roles with this person require of us. Parents must continue to care for children who are in their home. The husband-wife relationship must remain intact. This command was never

intended to bring these responsibilities to a halt.

There are individuals who get angry with the preacher when he speaks on these matters in a frank manner. Some become angry with God, even denying that a loving God would demand such things. Again, such attitudes do not reflect the faith of Abraham and other greats of the Bible who were called upon to make tremendous sacrifices for the Lord. They obeyed without hesitation. They trusted God to bring a positive outcome to difficult demands because of their obedient faith ([Heb. 11:17-19](#)).

The reality is that the individuals who are entangled in sin have caused the problem. They have either embraced false doctrine, or, have ceased to live a life that is well pleasing to God. They should be the ones who are held responsible. If there is any anger because of disciplinary action that must be taken, it should be toward them. Their actions have brought about this division. If they would repent and be faithful, full fellowship would be restored.

There is a passage that states: "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me" ([Matt. 10:37](#)). We have often applied this teaching to those in the denominational world who must forsake their family traditions to become Christians. With regard to withdrawal of fellowship, we must now apply this teaching to our lives. May God grant us the faith to obey Him. May our faithful obedience cause many to turn from their sins and be restored. The Lord's desire is that their soul will be saved when the Lord returns.

—[Withdrawing Is Not Disowning](#)  
([oceansidechurchofchrist.net](https://oceansidechurchofchrist.net))