



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 38

June 28, 2020

Number 26

Schedule of Services

- We have the privilege this Sunday at 10:00 of assembling together in the auditorium to worship God!

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

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

By Jonnie Hutchison

Is there anything that we see occurring in our world today that is new and has never happened before? Divine inspiration answers this question in the words of Ecclesiastes 1:9 which reads, *“That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.”* These words are found in the context of expressing the vanity of living one’s life without a sense of true purpose and direction, that is, living without God. Solomon searched for happiness in his life all the wrong places as so many continue to do today—fleshly lusts, material wealth, multiple marriages, alcohol and other drugs, and false religions. Solomon finally came to the only conclusion warranted by his experiment of a life without God— *“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter, fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all”* (Eccl. 12:13).

For one who chooses to live his or her life without God

nothing will change. The everyday consequences of such a life do not change. Feelings of guilt, of hopelessness, of emptiness remain constant. Participation in sin brings only fleeting pleasure and no genuine happiness that lasts. Enslavement to sin provides no freedom, no comfort, no release, not even for a moment. For one who lives his or her life without God there is nothing new under the sun.

For one who chooses to live with God in his or her life, there is something constantly new. *“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning”* (Lamentations 3:22-23). God’s mercy and compassion never cease. In His mercy and compassion He provides a *“new covenant”* (2 Cor. 3:6), which tells us how one may walk in *“newness of life”* (Romans 6:3-4),

In sin there is nothing new

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **Green Plain members:** Remember Faye Travis, Peggy Jarvis, Rex Enoch, Mary Crutchfield, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, and Carolyn Byars. **Family and Friends:** Jenne Pool, Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, Jim Hutson, Janice Canter, Marianne Pedigrew, Dale Foster, Andrea Phillips, Donald and Dorothy Cook, Pat Hocking, and Sandra Cook Downs. 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.

- **Worship Services:** It has been great to see so many attending our worship services each Sunday morning at 10:00 am. We want to remind you that we will **not** be meeting for Bible classes on Sunday or Wednesday or for evening worship at this time. We are hopeful that we will be able to return to our normal schedule in the very near future.
- **PANTRY ITEMS June 2020: 7—Baked Beans; 14—Peanut Butter; 21—Corn ; 28—Canned Meats.** 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.
- **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 Ronnie Gootan, David Nance, Mike Kiser, Arnold Gerson and Paul Jones in their respective works.
- **June 2020 Anniversaries:** 16th—Teresa & Larry Enoch; 17th—James & Jan Pigg; 21st—Peggy & Perry Jarvis; 25th—Mary & Jim Lowrie; **Birthdays:** 10th—Griselda Adams; 12th—LaDawn Hale. Happy Anniversary and Happy Birthday to each one.
- **Jesus will return to judge each one of us (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:10). None of us know when He will come (2 Peter 3:10-12). Are you ready for His coming? You can make the necessary preparation to be ready when He comes. The steps to salvation are clearly revealed in the New Testament. They are—hearing the Word (Romans 10:17), believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24), turning from your sins in genuine repentance (Acts 17:30), being immersed into the death of Jesus to reach His cleansing blood (Romans 6:3-5; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27) and living as a faithful servant and steward of God (Col. 3:24; Luke 12:42-43).**

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/Dexterkycc/
 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: What does the Bible call one who says, “there is no God?”

Last Week: Who was the first person ever to commit murder? Who did he kill?

Answer: Cain murdered his brother Abel (Genesis 4:8).

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under the sun but not so for one who is “in Christ.” “Therefore, if anyone is *in Christ*, he

is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

WHY DOES GOD NOT EXIST—SUFFERING? By Victor Eskew

For some reason, individuals do not want to believe God exists. They ignore all of the evidence. Our world manifests design in so many places. Design demands a designer. The writer of Hebrews was right when he said: “Every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God” ([Heb. 3:4](#)). Our physical bodies are another proof that God exists. We are composed of several systems and hundreds of parts that work in harmony one with another. Even before the day of sophisticated medicine, the psalmist understood that his body was a work of God. When he considered how wonderfully made he was, he praised God. In [Psalm 139:14](#), he penned these beautiful words: “I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” The psalmist also knew that the heavenly hosts prove the existence of a powerful God. He opens the nineteenth psalm with these words: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world...” ([Ps. 19:1-4a](#)). The psalmist was so convinced of the existence of God that he referred to those who denied His existence as fools. “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God...” ([Ps. 14:1; 53:1](#)).

Instead of looking honestly at the abundance of evidence that proves the existence of God, unbelievers seek any and every argument possible to question the existence of God. One of the most powerful they have found involves suffering. They ask: “If God exists, why is suffering in the world?” Here is how they reason. If God exists, and He is all powerful, then He could rid the world of suffering. Or, if God exists, and is all-powerful, then He must not be all-loving. If He truly loved humanity, He would rid the world of suffering. Their conclusions are threefold: 1) God does not exist, period. 2) God exists, but is not omnipotent. If He is not omnipotent, then He cannot be God. And, 3) God exists, but He is not all-loving. If He is not all-loving, then He cannot be

God. For some, this argument is very powerful. One of the reasons is because they approach suffering through human understanding. They see all suffering as bad. They assume an all-powerful, all-loving God would never permit suffering. Assumptions are just that, assumptions.

In the remainder of this article, let’s consider three things about suffering. First, suffering is part of man’s punishment. When God originally created man, He put him in a pristine garden called Eden. Man was innocent. There was no sin on the earth. Man, however, changed all of that. Man violated God’s law ([Gen. 2:16-17](#)) and partook of the forbidden fruit ([Gen. 3:6](#)). Part of man’s punishment involved suffering. “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children...cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” ([Gen. 3:16-19](#)). If anyone is responsible for sin, it is man. He was given a choice. He could sin. He could refrain from sin. He knew that death was the consequence of his actions. He choose death and all that comes with it. Some say that the punishment is too severe. How can we make such a determination? Are we God? Do we understand the seriousness of sin? Do we realized how much sin truly opposes the holiness of God? God is a just God. The punishment He meted out for sin was just and fair, even if humans think differently.

Second, suffering is a wonderful university of learning and growth. We understand this in some areas of life. To become a star athlete, there is discipline and suffering through which one must pass. Olympic champions can testify to the suffering they endured in order to stand on the platform to receive a gold medal. They will never say they enjoyed the suffering, but they will admit that it was good for them. They gained wisdom and strength and victory because of the struggles through which

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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/>

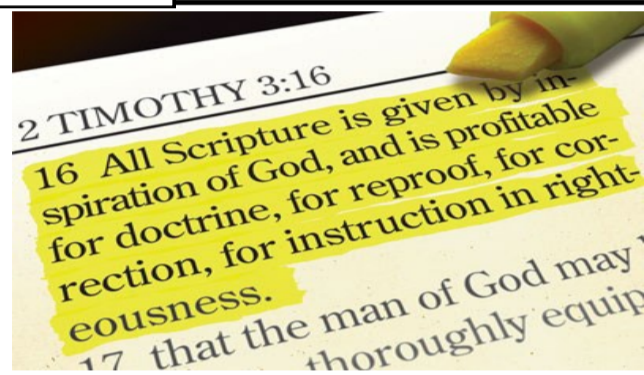
SUNDAY'S SERMON

"Standing Against Evil"

10:00 AM

Assemble in the Auditorium

Remember to practice social distancing



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they passed. The same is true of all humans. Our afflictions make us who we are. It is not the blessings and comforts of life that develop us. It is the University of Hard Knocks. The Bible speaks about this in several places. In [Romans 5:3-5](#), Paul writes: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed..." James echoes Paul's sentiments when writing about the diversity of temptations that all of us experience. "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" ([James 2:3-4](#)). James was so convinced about the positives of suffering that he told his readers to rejoice in their afflictions. "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" ([James 1:2](#)).

Third, suffering points man to things which are eternal. If earth were exactly like heaven, we would not long for heaven. If our bodies never experienced suffering, we would not long for our spiritual body. Paul understood this and wrote to the Corinthian church about it. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: if so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life" ([II Cor. 4:17-5:4](#)). Notice some of the things Paul says: "our light affliction...worketh for us," "while we look...at the things which are not seen," and "for in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven." Yes, we are afflicted. Yes, we groan. Yes, we are burdened. All of this, however, causes us to earnestly desire something better, "a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Suffering is a unique subject. We associate pain, sorrow, loss, and death with it. For some reason, we forget that joy, growth, experience, and hope are also attached to trials and tribulations. If God never allowed man to suffer, He would not be just. Too, He would not be a good teacher. And, He would keep His people from longing to be with Him when this life is over. We never wish suffering upon ourselves or anyone. But, when we suffer, it is not because God does not exist. It is not because God is not all-powerful or all-loving. As we have seen, there is much more to suffering than the simple assumptions of man.