



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

November 12, 2023

Number 43

Schedule of Services

Sunday

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:45 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

- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison
Cell: 270-978-7569

Supporting Works

India—Dale Foster, David
Nance, & Ronnie Gootam;
Hatti/Cuba: Arnold Gerson

Location

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

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH REGARDING GUARDIAN ANGELS?

Most scholars believe that the doctrine is plainly and indisputably taught therein. Jesus said, “See that ye despise not one of these little ones: for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 18:10.) The writer of Hebrews informs us that angels are “ministering spirits, sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation,” (Heb. 1:13), and David declared that “the angel of Jehovah encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” (Psalm 34:7.) Acts 12:15 and 27:23, are also often cited in support of the view that each disciple has an angel assigned to him for guidance, protection and encouragement. Practically all denominational writers defend the doctrine of “Guardian angels;” and various brethren among us (though by no means all), endorse the view. B. W. Johnson says that “the doctrine of guardian angels is emphatically taught in the scriptures,” and J. W. McGarvey wrote that the phrase, “their angels,” in Matt. 18:10, refers to “the angels especially charged

with ministering to them individually.” A current writer has asserted that “the New Testament teaching of angels, and particularly the providential care which they exercise over individuals, is too plain to be disputed by informed Bible students.”

In spite of these strong affirmations by great and good men, I can only state that, in my view, the premises do not fully support the conclusions they have drawn and that the doctrine is beset by much difficulty. (1) Neither in the foregoing passages, nor elsewhere in the scriptures, is it said that *each* person has a guardian angel. (2) Neither here, nor elsewhere is it affirmed that there is actually *present* with each disciple an angel; “their angels,” are said to be “in heaven,” where they “always behold the face of” the Father. Inasmuch as angels serve in the administration of God’s plan to save (Heb. 1:13), “their angels” belong to all who inherit salvation.

Angels were indeed actually engaged in influencing people in ancient times, but it must be

(Continued on page 3)

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Marie Wyatt and Jim Lowrie. Mary Vincent and Wanda Barrett were diagnosed with the Covid virus this past week.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Bonnie Byerly, Tommy Boggess, David Lemmons, Kim Burrows, and Lucetria Hutchison.

SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES continues tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm. This will end the fall 2023 session of our school. The next session will begin in March 2024.

TENATIVE TIME CHANGE: The elders are considering changing the time of Sunday evening services from 6:00 pm to **2:00 pm** for the months of December through March. Please let them know how you view this possible change. Thanks.

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. Send your name and complete mailing address and phone number to Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD Hazel, KY 42049 or email your request to greenplaincoc@gmail.com.

HOME BIBLE STUDY; Request a **FREE** home Bible study—“*Back to the Bible*” for anyone who is interested in gaining more knowledge of the Bible. Contact us to set up a time for our teachers to come into your home or meet at our building to begin this study.

PANTRY ITEMS November 2023: 5—Apple Sauce; 12-Peanut Butter; 19-Peas; 26-Corn. All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

November 2023; Anniversaries: 1st— Ann & Dave Thompston (71); 13-Jane & Brent Morris; 17-Debbie & Mike Ernstberger. **Birthdays:** 15-Jonnie Hutchison.. Did we miss anyone? Please let us know

THSE TO SERVE November 2023

Announcements: Chad Canter

Table AM: Roy Wyatt & Junior Morris

Table PM: 5-Roy; 12-Junior; 9-Junior; 26-Roay

Opening Prayer AM: 5-Jonnie; 12-Bobby
119-James; 26-Jim

Closing Prayer AM: 5-Mike; 12-Dave; 19-Jesse
26-Chad

Song Leaders: AM-Perry; PM-Chad; Wed-Mike

Count Contribution: Roy & Junior

If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter

Fall Session School of Biblical Studies



Last Class November 13

Monday 7:00—9:00 pm

Everyone Is Invited!

Romans—Josh Manning

Daniel—Luke Puckett

(Continued from page 1)

remembered that these were miraculous actions performed in lieu of the inspired written record which we today have. An angel appeared to Philip in Samaria, and to Cornelius in Caesarea, but these were instances of a type not today possible. (Acts 8:4, 26; 10:3.) Undoubtedly, in the operation of God's marvelous plan to save, angels are participants, but this is far, very far, from saying that they direct, control, and overshadow their earthly wards as the doctrine demands. When Peter was miraculously released from prison, and appeared at the gate of the house where the saints were assembled, the report of Rhoda of the apostle's presence there, was assumed by them to be "his angel." (Acts 12:15.) But, all this can possibly mean is that they concluded Peter had been killed by Herod and that it was his spirit which had come. There is nothing here to support the doctrine of Guardian angels; indeed, the implication is quite the reverse, inasmuch as the conclusion which the disciples drew was that Peter had been killed.

The doctrine, in my view, involves difficulties which cannot be resolved either in scripture or by experience. (1) It cannot be reconciled with the clear, explicit teaching of the scriptures regarding the free agency of man. Those who subscribe to the doctrine believe that the angel exercises watchful care and divine protection. Protection from what? Illness, injury, violent death? Many of the Lord's finest people today languish on beds of affliction, their every wakeful hour in agony. Where is the "guardian angel" during these interminable days of pain and lonely sleepless nights? Not infrequently, Christian people, perhaps at the moment on a trip motivated by the desire to be engaged in service to God, die violently in automobile accidents. How can

the theory be harmonized with these recurring and all too common tragedies involving the best of Christians? A theory in conflict with known and demonstrable facts cannot be true.

(2) Matt. 18:10, positions the presence of "their angels," before the face of the Father in heaven—not here on earth. Many scholars believe, and I think correctly, that this is a figurative statement alluding to the Oriental view that those who are deserving of high honors and great favors are most often permitted in the king's presence. The plural form (their angels) is suggestive of all angels who serve for all the saints in God's great plan—not, that each has a separate angel. Taught metaphorically then is the fact that faithful saints, even the most obscure of them on earth, are honored and highly regarded before the throne of God.

(3) The doctrine of the "guardian angels," as popularly believed, involves many of the same errors as the current theory of direct, independent operation of the Holy Spirit, apart from the Word—the New Testament. It necessitates the conclusion that there is immediate, personal direction by the angel on his ward. How is this accomplished? By means of the implantation of thoughts in the heart? How can the recipient of such alleged suggestions determine whether they originate with the angel or are prompted by other influences? By the Bible? If so, why may not the Bible be appealed to always and everywhere for such direction, since it is the monitor by which the "leading" of the angel is determined? What possible suggestion could the angel make contributory to the well-being of the disciple which is not already set out in the scriptures? Is the angel's direction irresistible or dependent on the will of the disciple? If the former, is the disciple responsible

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

for *his* failure to follow the angel's leading? There are many formidable difficulties associated with the doctrine of "guardian angels." We ought to be very cautious about accepting a view which conflicts with both reason and revelation.

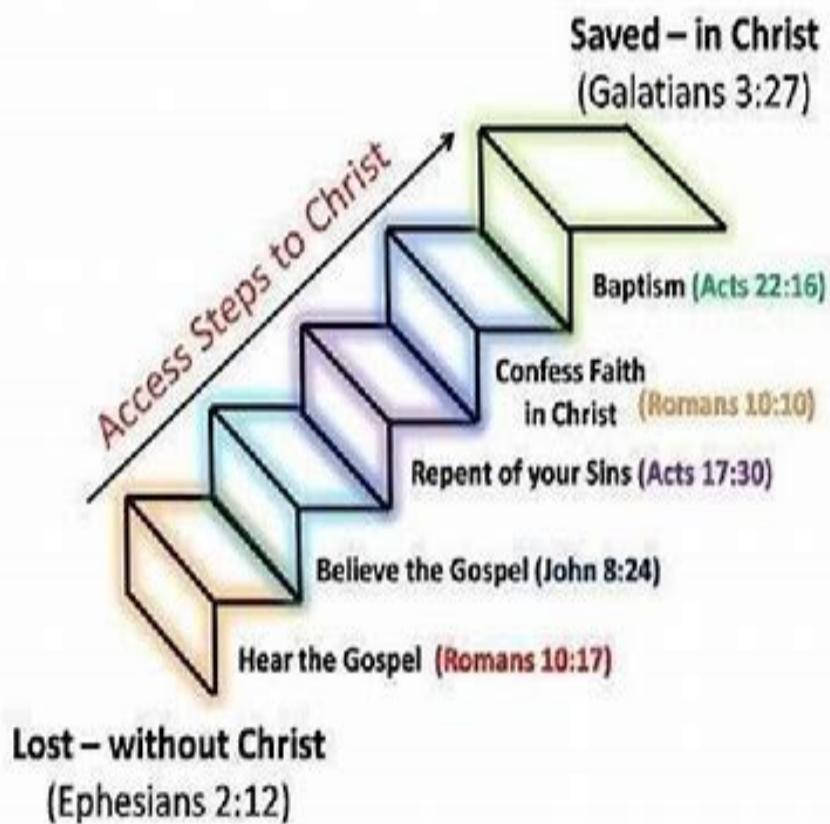
—Guy N. Woods, *Questions and Answers- Open Forum*, 1976, pp. 263-265.

Editor's Note: This article is included for additional study on the subject of guardian angels. Some still had questions after our study last Sunday evening as we were unable to include some of the passages brother Woods deals with in this article.

WHAT CAN WASH AWAY YOUR SIN?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

1 Peter 1:18-20, "knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."



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!

Bible Study Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM
Study of Matthew

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45
"Payday"

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 6:00
"Effective Fervent Prayer?"

Wednesday 7:00 pm
Study of Premillennialism



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts