



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

February 25, 2024

Number 8

Schedule of Services

Sunday

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:45 am and 2:00 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

FORGIVENESS By Sam Wilcut

Mark Twain once said, “Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.” Many in the world do not understand the subject of forgiveness since they fail to see what God says in His word about such. Some think that if we only pray to God concerning sin, no matter what the circumstances, God automatically and immediately forgives. Some think that we should forgive others even if they refuse to admit guilt, express remorse or show any signs of repentance. What are we to make of this confusing subject?

Let us first define this word in the way the Bible defines it, which it does employing five different terms:

- It uses a financial term called “remission” (Matt. 26:28). Concerning sin, man is indebted to God (Matt. 6:12), but in forgiveness, the blood of Jesus remits the guilt of past sins and forwards a zero balance.

- It uses a judicial term called “justification” (Rom. 3:24-26). Concerning sin, man stands guilty (James 2:10), but in forgiveness, the blood of Jesus

removes our guilt and releases us from the penalty of sin.

- It uses a ceremonial term called “purification” (Titus 2:14). Concerning sin, our souls are defiled (Jer. 2:23), but in forgiveness, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from the filth of iniquity (1 John 1:7; Isa. 1:18).

- It uses a geographic term called “sanctification” (Heb. 10:29). Concerning sin, we stand in the realm of the world and all who are friends to it (James 4:4), but in forgiveness, the blood of Jesus cuts us loose and sets us apart for holy service in His church (Rom. 12:1-2).

- It uses a social term called “reconciliation” (Rom. 5:10). Concerning sin, we are separated from God (Isa. 59:1-2), but in forgiveness, the blood of Jesus satisfies the justice of God and allows us to draw near to Him in fellowship (Heb. 8:10; James 4:8).

Now, there is actually a great deal of difference in demonstrating a forgiving spirit and obtaining forgiveness, because forgiveness is a two-way

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **Green Plain members:** Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Marjorie Grady, Marie Wyatt and Jim and Mary Lowrie. Hayes Grady remains in the Murray Hospital rehab.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Tommy Boggess, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, and Ted Clark.

PANTRY ITEMS February 2024: 4—Black-eyed Peas; 11-Carrots; 18-Canned Tomatoes; 25-Spaghetti Sauce.. All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

February 2024; Anniversaries: 20-Karen & Martin Elkins **Birthdays:** 19-Maxine Pool; 25-Jan Pigg- Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRECSPONDENCE 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREEN PLAIN:

⇒ ***Spring 2024 School of Biblical Studies*** each Monday, March 4—April 29. Classes: Romans Part 2-Josh Manning and 2 Corinthians Part 2—Jack Phillips. The time will be 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

⇒ ***Spring Gospel Meeting*** April 7-11 with Bradley Smith preacher for the Hickory Grove church of Christ. Mark you calendars and pray for theses efforts!

THSE TO SERVE February 2024

Announcements: Chad Canter

Table AM: Roy Wyatt & Junior Morris

Table PM: 4-Roy; 11-Junior; 18-Roy;
25-Junior

Opening Prayer AM: 4-Jonnie; 11-Bobby;
18-James; 25-Jim L

Closing Prayer AM: 4-Mike; 11-Dave; 18-Jesse;
25-Perry

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

Count Contribution: Roy & Junior

If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter

**To increase your Bible knowledge
and strengthen your faith visit the
following websites:**

The Gospel Broadcasting Network
gbntv.org

Good News Today—**www.gntv.org**

International Gospel Hour
www.internationalgospelhour.com

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

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street. Let us now distinguish the two. The Bible declares that we must be people who are willing to forgive (Matt. 5:44-45; 6:14-15; Mark 11:25; Eph. 4:32; Matt. 18:21-35). This was the demonstration by example of our Lord on Calvary in Luke 23:34: “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Nevertheless, unless the perpetrator recognizes fault and expresses proper remorse, one cannot obtain forgiveness. Since we have offended God by our sins, we must obtain His forgiveness based upon His terms. The Bible is replete with passages that inform us of the need of developing a broken and contrite spirit (Ps. 34:18; 51:17).

The New Testament declares thus for the child of God: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). Peter told the anguished ones who crucified the Lord, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38) for this reason—while Jesus demonstrated a forgiving spirit, they still needed to indicate proper steps of recognition and remorse for what they did. With both of these, they were able to obtain forgiveness from God, which serves as a wonderful pattern for us in forgiving others also.

—[Forgiveness - Church of Christ Articles](#)

A FATHER’S BROKEN HEART By Jonnie Hutchison

One of the Lord’s most touching parables is that often referred to as the parable of the “prodigal son” or “the lost son.” It is found in Luke 15:11ff. In the parable the youngest son of two brothers asks his father to give him his inheritance. The boy then takes his inheritance, travels to a far country, and wastes it on sinful living (Luke 15:13). Having used up all of his possessions, the son finds himself literally in a pigpen, feeding the pigs and surviving a famine by eating their food (Luke 15:15-16). In other words, he hit rock bottom. It is obvious that this son represents one who once was faithful to God but has departed from His spiritual fellowship because of sin.

His father did not deny his youngest son his inheritance. He permitted his son to leave his home and go into the far country. However, he did not give up on his son but continually watched for him to come back home (Luke 15:20). Was this father grieved

that his son had left home? Did he long for him to return? **Was his heart broken? Yes!** Every Christian parent whose son or daughter has left their Lord so grieves and longs for their return.

But the father in the Lord’s parable represents God Himself. God allows us to make our own decisions. He does not force us to serve Him. Sadly, many choose to travel away from the house of God to the far country of sin and find themselves in the depths of depravity. Does this grieve our heavenly Father? Absolutely! Why? Because our heavenly Father knows that His once faithful child is lost and his/her eternal soul is in eternal jeopardy.

Fortunately, the lost son “came to himself,” and, realizing his tragic condition, made up his mind he would return to his Father and home (Luke 15:17-19). His was an attitude of “godly sorrow” which led to His

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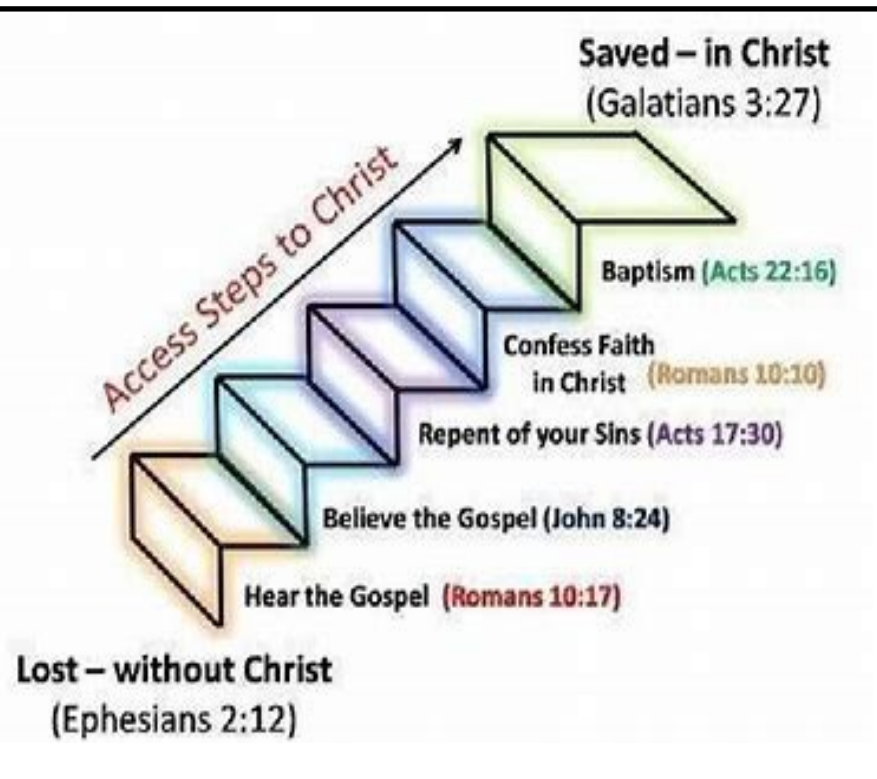
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repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10). When he came home he said, "I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son." (Luke 15:21).

What was the father's response to the return of his son? In a word—FORGIVENESS. He treated his penitent son as if he had never sinned (Luke 15:22-23). The father said, "for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (Luke 15:24). This is exactly the response of our heavenly Father when His erring child repents and comes back home. As Jesus said in Luke 15:7, "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

No matter how far down in the depths of sin you find yourself, through genuine repentance, confession of your sin and utilizing the avenue of prayer, YOU can come back to your Father, **YOU CAN COME HOME!**

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2).



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 I Timothy

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45
"Bible Fruits"

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 2:00
"The Genealogy of Jesus Christ—What Can We Larn?"

Wednesday 7:00 pm
Study of Matthew



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts