



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

March 17, 2024

Number 11

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

SAVED BY WORKS By Jonnie Hutchison

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that salvation is by “grace through faith” and “**not of works** lest anyone should boast.” Yet the Bible also tells us in James 2:24, “You see then **that a man is justified by works**, and not by faith only.” Did James contradict Paul? How is it possible that salvation is not of works, yet justification is by works?

First, salvation and justification are synonymous terms. Those who are justified before God constitute the saved. Both salvation and justification are attributed to the blood of Jesus. Romans 5:9 reads, “*Much more then, having now been **justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.***” Both Paul and James were writing about the same subject of how one is saved. Paul says it is not of works, but James says it is of works.

At first glance this may seem like an obvious contradiction. This seeming contradiction is what led Martin Luther to refer to the book of James as “a straw epistle.” In essence, Luther rejected the book of James as being inspired of God. However, this apparent contradiction disappears when one considers that Paul and James are writing about **different kinds** of works. In the context, Paul was writing about works originated by men in an attempt to be saved. On the other hand, the context of James chapter two shows that James was writing

about **works of obedience** to what God has commanded, evident in the examples of Abraham and Rahab (James 2:20-25).

Note the words of Jesus in John 6:29, “*This is **the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.***” When one believes in Jesus he has participated in a work of God. When one obeys what God commands, he is not working his own works, but the work of God. Thus when one obeys God’s commands to believe (Mark 16:16), repent of sin (Acts 17:30), confess faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), he has done nothing of which to boast, but in exercising his faith in obedience, is saved, not by his own works, but by grace through faith.

Paul did not condemn all works for he wrote in Eph 2:10, “*For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***” James, showing the necessity of obeying God wrote in James 2:26, “*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also.***”

There is no contradiction between the words written by Paul or James. The same Spirit inspired both! Grace is God’s part in the matter of salvation. Faith that works (obeys God’s commands) is man’s part. Have you received God’s grace through faith? (Titus 2:11-12).

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **Green Plain members:** Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Marie Wyatt and Jim Lowrie..

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 **March 2024:** 3—Ketchup; 10-Mustard; 17-Mayo; 24-Bar-B-Que Sauce; 31-Salad dressing (any kind). All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

March 2024; Anniversaries: 12-Marie & Roy Wyatt; 15-Sue & Bobby Hall. **Birthdays:** 9-Gail Hutchison; 14-Roy Wyatt; 20-James Pigg. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

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.

⇒ **Spring Gospel Meeting April 7-11** with Bradley Smith preacher for the Hickory Grove church of Christ. The theme for this meeting will be “*Your Questions About the Church of Christ.*” Please be praying for our meeting and plan on inviting others to attend with you. Schedule of Services: Sunday 10:00 am for Bible classes; 10:45 am for morning worship and **7:30** pm for evening worship. Handouts are available on the table in the lobby. Take as many as you will use.

THSE TO SERVE March 2024

Announcements: Mike Ernstberger

Table AM: James Pigg & Chad Canter

Table PM: 3-Chad; 10-James; 17-Chad;
24-James; 31-Chad

Opening Prayer AM: 3-Jonnie; 10-Perry;
17-Bibby; 24-Jim L.; 31-Russell

Closing Prayer AM: 3-Roy; 10-Dave; 17-Jesse;
24-Mike; 31-Junior

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

Count Contribution: James & Chad
If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter

GREEN PLAIN SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

SPRING 2024

March 4-April 29

Each Monday Evening

7:00—9:00 pm

**In depth studies on
Romans—Josh Manning
2 Corinthians—Jack Phillips**

Meet in the Annex

HOW DO I STUDY THE BIBLE? By Kevin Cauley

There are many people who ask this question today. It is difficult to answer such a question in so short a space as I have in the bulletin, but I am going to try to give a few practical bits of information that I hope you will find valuable as you purpose to study the scriptures on a regular basis.

First, when you study the Bible, you should pray. Prayer sets the right tone for your Bible study. It places you in a respectful position of God's word and invokes God's guidance. Prayer focuses you on the task at hand. Prayer will cause you to shut out all other purposes you may have in mind. Prayer helps Bible study!

Second, reading the Bible properly is important. John pronounced a blessing upon those who read (Revelation 1:3). Ezra read from the book of the Law to all the people (Nehemiah 8:8). You can't study without reading in one form or another, but be warned, reading is not necessarily the same thing as studying. Many people "read" the Bible without studying. To truly study the Bible, we must put on our thinking caps and meditate about what we have read. Reading out loud will help you to think about the words you are reading.

Third, when studying the Bible, ask yourself questions. Who am I reading about? What is he doing, saying, teaching? When is he doing it? Where are they at? Why is he writing this? Asking questions about the text is a good way to help yourself find the answers in the text that you are looking for. Get out a piece of paper when you study

and write down questions that come to your mind. If you don't understand something, then write down why you don't understand it. Many times when you write these types of things, the answers become more evident.

Fourth, keep a good dictionary handy. When studying we often come across words that we don't understand. We need to understand those words in order to study. That's what a dictionary is for, to help us understand the meaning. Bible dictionaries are even more helpful, because they tend to define words in the context of the original culture in which they were used. Bible dictionaries also offer help in understanding weights and measures of Bible times, as well as giving information regarding proper names in the Bible. Understanding the meaning of words and names goes a long way in helping us study the Bible and learn more about God.

Fifth, try studying the Bible by topic. There are several helps and aids that you can acquire that will expedite your study this way. Most Bibles have an abridged concordance in the back. A concordance groups Bible verses based upon key words. So if you want to know more about the topic of "love," you just look up that topic and study the scriptures in which that word is found. You can also acquire more comprehensive concordances that index every single word in the Bible. These books are great when you are trying to study the Bible by topic.

Sixth, another way to study

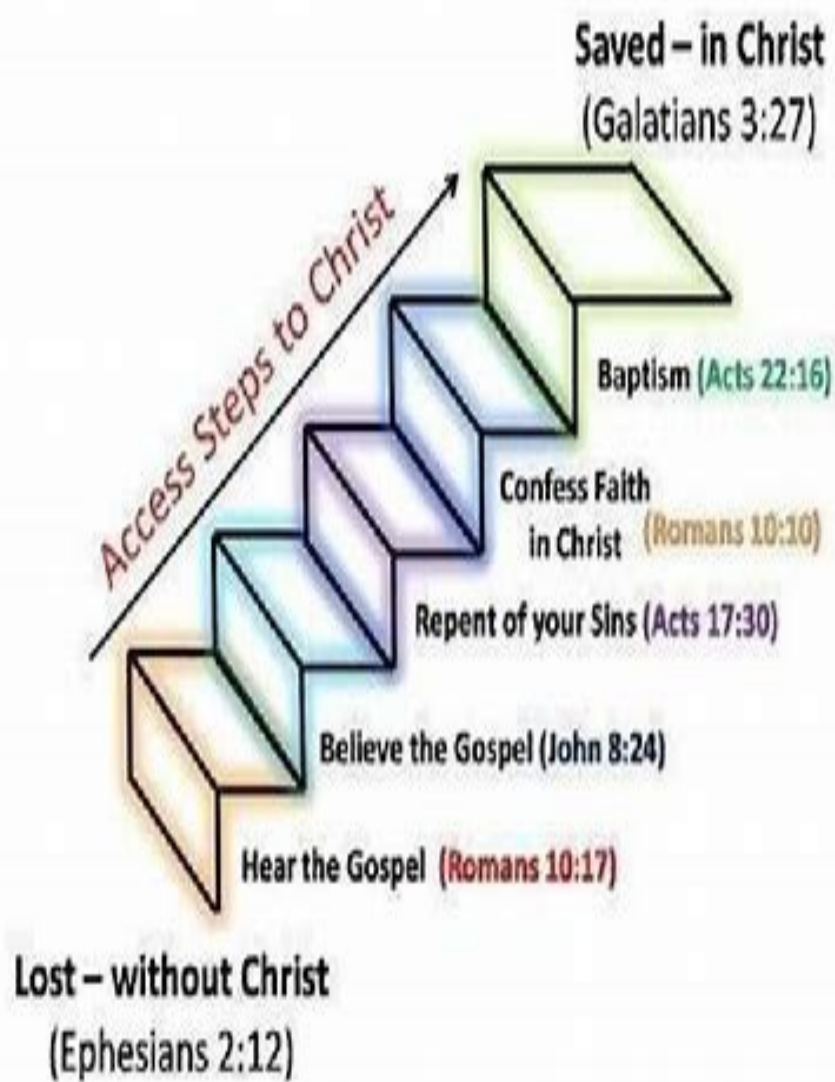
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the Bible is by cross reference. Many Bibles have cross references in the text. These are often indicated by small letters. When you see one, look up the associated scripture and try to think of how those two scriptures relate. Maybe they speak about the same person; maybe the same subject; maybe they just have the same word, but it is used in a different sense in each passage. There are also larger books that contain nothing but cross references to Bible verses. Studying cross references can give you valuable information regarding one particular passage of the Bible.

Now, what are you waiting on? **Get out there and study that Bible!**

—[How Do I Study The Bible? - GEWatkins.net](http://GEWatkins.net)



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
"Essentials of Repentance"

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 2:00
"The Gospel: God's Power to Save"

Wednesday 7:00 pm
Study of Matthew



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts