



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

March 21, 2021

Number 11

Schedule of Services

- 10:00 AM
Sunday
Worship
- 7:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study

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

Light Shines Brightest In Dark Places *By Todd Houston*

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.
Philippians 2:14-16

Throughout human history, the conditions people have endured have varied considerably from one location to another and one time to another. The ideals and values of various cultures have ebbed and flowed from periods of deep distress to periods of relative bliss. This is true of these United States like all other nations and cultures in history. One of the reasons the founders moved to the new world was to escape a long standing darkness which had shackled the human spirit for long ages. The cornerstone of the Declaration of Independence is the biblical concept that all human beings are created equally with certain unalienable rights given by our

creator.

While the application of these self-evident truths has often been inconsistent, this principle produced a nation of tremendous freedom and opportunity. The religious moorings of American society established certain moral and ethical norms which for many generations were largely unchallenged. As a result, many Christians who have witnessed the rapid moral degeneration of the United States in the past sixty years or so are greatly perplexed as to how we ought to respond. While there are definite causes for concern, we must remain a people of faith and hope in order to avoid becoming paralyzed in our service to God. Some have seemingly thrown in the towel and determined the gospel has no power in America anymore and have surrendered the battle to the increasing spiritual darkness. What are we to do in times when it seems like darkness is taking complete control?

A little historical perspective is in order. Moral

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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, Carolyn Byars, 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., and Brett Wyatt.

- **PANTRY ITEMS March 2021:** 7—Canned Peaches; 14—Canned Pairs; 21—Canned Potatoes; 28—Canned Chili. 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.
- **March 2021 Anniversaries:** 12– Marie & Roy Wyatt; 15–Sue & Bobby Hall. **Birthdays:** 9–Gail Hutchison; 14–Roy Wyatt; 20–James Pigg; 23–London Smith. If we have left anyone out please let us know.
- **We offer FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES through the mail.** Enroll on our website or send your name and return mailing address to the address on the first page of this bulletin. You may also call 270-978-7569 or you may email us at greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

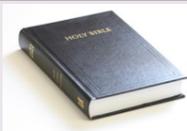
Gospel Broadcasting Network
<https://gbntv.org/>

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 SERMON

*“Dealing With
Discouragement”*

“Be strong and of good courage”

(Joshua 1:6a)

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decline ought to be disturbing to those who love the Lord. We are supposed to abhor evil and cling to good (Romans 12:9). However, contrary to popular belief, these are not earth's darkest days. In fact, these are not even close to earth's darkest days. If we remember the flood of Genesis 6-9, we must remember there were only eight people who were faithful to God. There will be more than eight faithful people who will read this article. A further and even more meaningful example is the Roman world into which Christianity was born.

Some of the issues plaguing our culture include sexual deviations, abortion, greed, violence, etc. With regard to sexual sin, men in the Roman Empire of the first century were often guilty of everything from adultery to pedophilia with little or no opposition to such practices. Abortion was rare but only because the mothers almost always died. Their solution was to give birth and throw the unwanted babies onto the trash heap to die of exposure. As for greed, Judas sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and the

poor were consistently abused by the wealthy ruling class. As for violence, in the early centuries of Christianity the Romans watched as gladiators fought to the death or wild beasts ripped people (often Christians) to shreds in front of a raucous, cheering crowd. It is evident from Romans 1:18-32 the world of Paul's day was filled with a great deal of darkness, yet the church exploded onto the scene and grew at an astounding pace.

If the church could thrive in the midst of that evil empire, it most certainly can grow in our current darkened culture. In truth, the power of Christianity is the sharp contrast it provides to the world around it. In other words, light shines brightest in the darkest places. As the light of the world, we must not give in to a spirit of fear because God has given us a spirit of "...power and of love and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). The gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to shed light into the darkest of human hearts. We just have to remove the basket and let our light shine out in the world around us.

-Elizabethton church of Christ, TN

NO GOD EQUALS NO SIN?

Jonnie Hutchison

Some would have us to believe that "sin" is not real but an invention of religion to gain control over others. Charles Clack, an atheist, wrote, "Sin consists of doubting or disobeying Jehovah. Since Jehovah doesn't exist, sin doesn't exist either. And halleluiaah for that!" ([How do atheists define sin in the absence of gods? - Quora](#)). Far too many in our world have similar feelings about sin as does Mr. Clack. Mr. Clack did get one thing right even though his conclusion was wrong. Sin is disobeying Jehovah.

The Bible defines sin in the words of 1 John 3:4. "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgres-*

sion of the law." The "law" under consideration is God's spiritual law which is revealed in written form in the New Testament. When one transgresses or violates God's law it constitutes sin.

The New Testament defines sin in the words of 1 John 5:17 as "*All unrighteousness is sin...*" Thayer defines the Greek word translated as "unrighteousness" as "a deed violating law and justice."

The book of James defines sin in the words of James 4:17, "*Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*" Sin is the failure to do the good that

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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
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WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
7:00 PM
A STUDY OF SECOND TIMOTHY

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one knows to do. What is good is defined in the pages of God's written word. Writing of God's spiritual law the inspired Paul penned the words, "*Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.*" (Romans 7:12).

God's universal spiritual law has been given to mankind to provide, not only a definition of sin, but the necessary instructions as how to receive the forgiveness of sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8-9; 1 Peter 1:19). All sin, every sin, has negative consequences which, when left unforgiven, extend into eternity. Sin separates the sinner from God and earns spiritual death (Isaiah 59:1-2; romans 6:23). God desires that all sinners to be saved for He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

Each one should consider the fact that if God does not exist and sin is not a reality that there is no standard of right and wrong or of good and evil. Those who do not believe that God exists or that the Bible is His spiritual law have no objective standard to govern either their own actions or the actions of others. If there is no God, no standard of spiritual law, then who is to say that murder, rape, stealing, adultery, genocide, or pedophilia is either right or wrong? History is filled with

examples of peoples and nations that rejected the standard of the Word of God which resulted in the practice and acceptance of such terrible and harmful actions as just mentioned. But who is to say that such things are wrong? When there is no objective standard it is left up to each individual to decide what is wrong or right for him or her which may be different from what other individuals decide is right or wrong. Even civil laws differ from nation to nation. For example, some nations condemn by law the practice of homosexuality while others do not. Civil law often changes when new leaders come to power as evidenced by what we see now in our own nation. However, God's spiritual law does not and will not change. God's spiritual law is "settled in heaven" not on this earth (Psalm 119:89). It is the perfect, unchanging standard.

May God help each of us to accept His existence and His spiritual law as our standard of life. Remember, "*The fool has said in his heart, there is no God...*" (Psa. 14:1a)



The Gospel
24/7
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