



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

April 4, 2021

Number 13

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](mailto:greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

TOO FAR GONE?

By *Jonnie Hutchison*

Several years ago a Bible study with an individual resulted in his making this comment: "I'm too far gone. I've lived so long in sin that there is no way for me to change now." I wonder how many others share this sentiment? Whether it be an unscriptural marriage relationship, an alcohol or other drug addition, or the habitual practice of a worldly and sinful lifestyle, is it true that it is impossible for one to make the necessary changes in one's life to obtain God's forgiveness.?

Ask the great persecutor of the church Saul of Tarsus. Saul, while a young man, witnessed the stoning of Stephen, showing his approval by keeping the garments of those who threw the stones (Acts 7:58-60). Later, he would describe himself in the words of Galatians 1:13-14, "*For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.*" Saul

was sent out by the Jewish leaders to bring Christians back to Jerusalem to stand trial for their lives. One might think that such a man as Saul could never change, that he was too far gone, but he could change and he did.

As Saul was on his way to Damascus, intent on hunting down Christians, the Lord appeared to him and instructed him to go into the city and wait. Three days later Ananias came to Saul and said, "*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" (Acts 22:16). From that point Saul's whole life changed. He forgot what was behind him and pressed forward to what lay before him, - "the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). Saul became the Apostle Paul, a changed man dedicated to the service of Jesus. He had experienced first hand the truth stated in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all

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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 April 2021:** 4—Baked Beans; 11—Soups; 18—Apple Sauce; 25—Syrup. 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.
- **April 2021 Anniversaries:** None **Birthdays:** 3-Mary Lowrie; 8-Katelyn Canter; 24-David Thompson; 27-Steve Enoch; 29-Sue Hall; 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

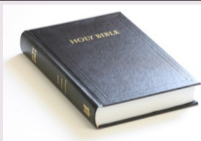
Gospel Broadcasting Network
<https://gbntv.org/>

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

“Is Easter in the Bible?”

*“You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.”
-Galatians 4:10-11*

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things have become new.”

Too far gone? No! Not if one is willing to accept the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, believing He is the Son of God, repenting of

sin, confessing faith in Christ and being immersed in water, into the death and blood of Jesus, that washes away sin. And then, forgetting the past, ever reaching forward, pressing on in faithful service to gain eternal life in heaven.

SEVEN SCOUPS AT A TIME *By Josh Manning*

Life is full of rhythms and routines. We experience these in our everyday lives and also on a more grand scale throughout the seasons of life. The Qoheleth of Ecclesiastes (often translated as the preacher) famously wrote, “To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to hate; A time of war, And a time of peace” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

In all these different seasons of life, the task that is set before us is to serve and glorify God. As Paul would say, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is” (Ephesians 5:15-17). Or, as he wrote to the Colossians, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17).

What makes this difficult is the fact that the afore mentioned Old Testament passage presents life through a list of opposing pairs of positive and negative “times.” Weeping is contrasted by laughter, birth by death, gain by loss, war by peace, and so on.

And often, these seasons or “times” over-

lap with multiple other “times” making life complex and emotionally taxing. Additionally, while going through a particular season of life, we usually compare it to previous experiences and judge our present circumstances, opportunities, and productivity to the past. If we are not careful we run the risk of idealizing the past and frustrating our present. Or maybe while going through a particularly difficult season of life we turn our attention to the future and hope for a better tomorrow. And while there is great beauty and joy to be found in the past, and our futures should be saturated by hope, life takes place in the present, and it is in the present that we are to glorify our Creator.

Right now, Maggie gets a seven-ounce bottle to eat when she gets hungry. This means that multiple times throughout the day, Laura and I scoop out seven scoops of formula into a bottle containing seven ounces of water. Seven scoops, over and over and over again. Not the most exciting nor the most miserable of tasks. It is simply where we are. Next year we are going to be in a different phase of life. And if the Lord doesn’t return and we are blessed to continue living, the next year will be a different phase as well.

What we all need to do is understand that “life is filled with swift transition” and accept that there is a great deal of change that goes along with this world. Once we’ve accepted that, we need to engage in our present with patience, wisdom, and love. Find joy in your “seven scoops”, whatever that activity may be, and, as the Scriptures teach us, “through love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

—Eastwood church of Christ
Paris, TN



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!

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HUMAN RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS

By Jonnie Hutchison

The New Testament speaks of two different kinds of religious traditions. Jesus addressed human religious traditions in Mark 7:8 saying to the Pharisees, *“For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the **tradition of men** — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.”* The “traditions of men,” which Jesus contrasted with the “commandment of God,” did not originate with God nor were they commanded by God. Yet, the Jews in the days of Jesus had originated their own religious traditions and bound them on others as if they were the commands of God. Jesus pointed out that embracing such human religious traditions was actually *“laying aside the commandment of God.”*

Since the days of Jesus religious traditions originated by men have continued to flourish. The holiday known as “Easter” is filled with traditions unknown in scripture. Where does the Bible command us to observe Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday or Good Friday? Where does the Bible command us to put ashes on our foreheads the Wednesday before Easter?

Did you know that the term “Easter” is not actually found in the Bible text? It is found in the King James translation of the Bible in Acts 12:4, however, the Greek word is *pascha* which is properly translated as

“Passover.” It is so translated in every other verse where it is used in the KJV.

Paul, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit penned this warning found in Colossians 2:8-9, *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to **the tradition of men**, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”* Some may consider following human religious traditions of little significance, but the Bible teaches otherwise.

The other form of tradition of which the New Testament speaks is what God has commanded and passed down through the teaching of inspired men and written in the Word of God. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 addresses these traditions in the words, *“Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the **traditions which you were taught**, whether by **word** or our **epistle**.”* What Paul and other inspired men taught and wrote were not originated by them but were given to them by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is affirmed in the words of Galatians 1:11-12, *“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

Let us endeavor to hold fast to the traditions revealed in God’s Word and reject the religious traditions originated by men.