



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

July 16, 2023

Number 26

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;
MSOP—Eli Sales
BIM—Duston Pool.
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

ONE WHO WINS SOULS IS WISE

By Jonnie Hutchison

There are just two ultimate eternal destinies awaiting we humans. Jesus addressed these two eternal destinies in His preview of the final judgment, saying, "*These (the unrighteous JH) shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life*" (Matthew 25:46). Which will be your eternal destiny depends upon what spiritual road you choose to travel in this life. As Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, "*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*"¹⁴ *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*" The way that leads to destruction is the way of sin. Sin separates one from God and thus leads to spiritual death.

Many who are following the path to eternal destruction do not even realize they are on that path. They are ignorant of God's Word which reveals what sin is

and sin's eternal consequences. That is where the saved come in. Every saved person has the personal responsibility to use his/her abilities and opportunities to teach sinners God's plan for their salvation from sin. Each of us need to ask ourselves, "Am I fulfilling this responsibility?" What am I personally doing to lead sinners to salvation?

There are many ways each of us may fulfill this personal responsibility toward those who are lost. One can bring up the subject of salvation in every day conversations which may lead to a Bible study. Many have been led to salvation through home Bible studies. One may enroll another in a Bible correspondence course. Bringing someone to Bible classes and worship services has resulted in many learning and obeying the truth. Passing out or mailing printed material such as tracts, bulletins or distributing DVD's that teach the truth may lead a lost soul to salvation. Social me-

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Green Plain members:* Peggy Jarvis (at home), Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Hayes and Marjorie Grady and Jesse and Mary Vincent and the Ernstberger family.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Bonnie Byerly, Tommy Boggess, David Lemmons, Carlee Poole, Kim Burrows, Calvin Hall, and Eddy and Betty Craft.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Louis Ernstberger who passed from this life this past week. Our hearts go out to Steve and Cathy and to Mike and Debbie and all the family.

INDIA REPORT: We welcome David Nance to our services this morning. This congregation has been supporting David and others in India for some time and we are thankful for his good work among the people of India.

PANTRY ITEMS May 2023: 2—Corn; 9-Pinto Beans; 16-Vienna Sausages; 23-Diced Tomatoes 30-Mayonnaise. All items must be non-perishable or canned

July 2023; Anniversaries: None. **Birthdays:** 7—Chad Canter. 18—Hayes Grady; 30—Jim Lowrie. Did we miss anyone? Please let us know.

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.

THOSE TO SERVE JULY 2023

Announcements: James Pigg

Lord's Table AM; Bobby Hall & Mike Ernstberger

Lord's Table PM: 2-Chad; 9-Bobby; 16-Chad; 23-Bobby; 30-Chad.

Opening Prayer AM

2-Jonnie; 9-Perry; 16-James; 23-Jim; 30-Mike

Closing Prayer PM

2-Dave; 9-Chad; 16-Jesse; 23-Roy; 30-Junior

Song Leaders

AM-Perry; PM-Mike; Wed-Chad

Count Contribution: Bobby & Mike

AREA EVENTS

July 23-26 Gospel Meeting Dexter church of Christ with Bradley Smith.

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

**Fall Gospel Meeting Sept. 10-14
With Victor Eskew**

**Fall Session School of Biblical Studies
September 18-November 6
7:00—9:00 pm**

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dia offers opportunities to present God's truth to others

One of the most effective ways to influence the lost is by living a faithful Christian life. Paul wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit to Timothy telling him to "***be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity***" (Timothy 4:12). By setting an example of continued faithfulness the Christian may bring a non-Christian spouse to salvation (1

Peter 3:1-2). Yes, a godly example is a very powerful tool to create an interest which may lead others to Christ.

This is not an exhaustive list, but it helps us to understand that whatever our ability or talent, we can do something to turn a precious soul from the path of eternal destruction to the path that leads to eternal life. Remember, "***The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise***" (Proverbs 11:30).

SEEKING THE LOST *By Daniel Curtis*

Have you ever lost anything? We all have; we have even lost things important to us (i.e. car keys!). When we realize something has been lost, how do we react? That depends on the value we place on what was lost. If something lost is of little value, we may not even realize it is missing, therefore, we probably won't search for it. Even if we do realize it is lost, our search perhaps may not be very diligent. On the other hand, if we lose something of great value to us, we immediately realize it is missing and search with great diligence until it is found.

In [Luke 15:8-9](#) we read a parable about a woman who lost something of value to her: a silver coin. Although she still had nine others, she placed great value on all ten of them. In this situation her attention and efforts were directed towards the one that was lost. The urgency of her situation is clearly stated in verse 8: "*Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?*" Obviously, she placed great value on that one lost coin. A lesson here is that upon realizing something of great value is lost, we should "*seek diligently until [we] find it.*" How much value do we place on the souls of others? Our souls are the most valuable

possessions we have, and they were given to us by our God, who made us in His image ([Gen. 1:27](#)). The conclusion we must draw is that we should place as much value on a lost soul as God does. [John 3:16](#) perhaps best demonstrates the worth of a soul to God, in that "*He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*" Also, [Matthew 20:28](#) shows the value of a soul to Jesus Christ when he states that the Son of Man came "*to give his life a ransom for many.*" Who do we know who is in a lost condition right now? Are we seeking their soul with diligence? Jesus gave the command to proclaim the gospel to the lost ([Mark 16:15](#)). Not only did the good shepherd seek those who are outside his fold ([John 10:16](#)), he desires to save and protect those within his fold as well ([Eph. 5:25-27](#)). Because members of the body of Christ may become lost due to uncorrected sin in their lives, seeking the lost must take place both within the church and without.

Look again at the steps this woman took in searching for her lost coin: she lit a lamp and swept her house, seeking diligently until the coin was found. Do we take these steps when

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searching for lost souls? We must rely on the light of God's word to bring souls back. The Psalmist realized that God's word "*is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*" (119:105). Reliance on and trust in the guiding power of God's word is necessary in order to safely search for and bring back the lost. Turn on that light! It is essential that we study and know the word of truth so we can rightly handle it ([2 Tim. 2:15](#)) and use that word to bring souls to God. The woman in this parable also swept her house while looking. She cleaned and put things in order. [Matthew 7:1-5](#) warns that we must first clean ourselves up before we can effectively and safely bring back the lost. After lighting the lamp and cleaning up her house, she searched diligently. Seeking the lost is not a part-time activity. It requires applied effort and can be difficult and discouraging.

Although seeking the lost can physically and emotionally drain us, finding what once was lost brings about a joyful reaction. Verse 9 shows the woman's reaction upon finding her lost coin: "*...she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'*" Jesus brings to light another truth in verse 10 when he says, "*Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*" This powerful verse teaches us that God places great value on the lost. The phrase "just so" is a connect-or phrase. The woman had found her lost coin and was rejoicing; "just so," God rejoices when one lost sinner is found. This reaction demonstrates the great value of the lost, and the great joy of finding it. Do we rejoice greatly when a lost soul has been recovered? The return of a lost brother or sister in Christ should be one of the most joyous occasions to us. Often times our attitudes towards the lost may be improper. Do we sincerely rejoice, showing the love and care we should?

The need to search for the lost is never-ending. There will always be those who have never come to the Lord, and there will always be some who stray away from Him. Our charge is to seek them. We must place great **value** on lost souls, **diligently** search for them, and sincerely **rejoice** with the Lord when the lost are found. Let us take this responsibility seriously and each work our hardest to bring the lost to Christ!

—[Seeking the Lost - Articles](#) < [Highway 275 Church of Christ](#)

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

Book of 1 Thessalonians

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45

Guest Speaker David Nance

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 6:00

"The Betrayal & Arrest of Jesus" John 18:1-11

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

Book of Matthew



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts