



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

July 25, 2021

Number 28

Schedule of Services

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:50 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

- 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)

IT IS YOUR CHOICE TO MAKE

By Jonnie Hutchison

Choice is an integral part of our daily lives. We choose what time to arise each morning and what time we retire at night. We choose what foods we will eat and what beverages we will drink. We choose who will be our friends, with whom we will associate and what social events we will attend. Some of the choices we make are relatively insignificant but others are extremely important.

Every choice one makes in life has consequences. This is inescapable. Depending upon the choice made these consequences will be either positive or negative. But there will be consequences! Each of us know this from our own personal experience. However, whether the consequences are positive or negative it is still your choice to make.

The most important choice that one will ever make in this life is a choice with eternal consequences. This choice is one that every accountable person makes. It is the choice to either serve sin or to serve God. In the days of Joshua this choice was presented to the people of Israel. Joshua said, “...*choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve....*” The choice was the one true and living God or the false gods (idols) others served. But Joshua said, “...*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord....*” (Joshua

24:15). It was Joshua’s choice to make and he chose to serve God.

Moses made a choice that impacted the future of God’s plan to save man. His choice was either to enjoy the temporary pleasures of sin in the house of the Pharaoh of Egypt or to suffer affliction with the people of God (Hebrews 11:24-25). It was Moses’ choice to make but making the right choice to serve God eventually freed his people from bondage and preserved the seed line for Jesus to come into the world to save sinners (Luke 19:10).

Judas, an apostle of Jesus, made a choice. In his greed he chose to betray the Lord for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15). The consequences of his choice were not only regret and suicide but the betrayal and death of Jesus Christ. Yet, it was his choice to make.

Dear reader, right now you are making a choice that will impact your eternal destiny. Yes, it is **YOUR CHOICE** to make but you must accept the consequences of your choice. The choice to reject the salvation that is in Christ will result in much sorrow in this life, and eternal separation from God in the punishment of hell (Mark 9:44-48). However, choosing to turn from sin and obey the Lord will result in a

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Faye Travis, Peggy Jarvis, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, Steve Enoch Carolyn Byars, Mary and Jim Lowrie and Mary Vincent Charles Enoch remains in Murray Hospital suffering from Covid. He remains on a ventilator. Rex Enoch is in Murray Hospital as of this writing. He is being treated with meds and is on oxygen. No visitors or phone calls permitted for Charles and Rex at this time. Please pray for all of our sick and those in the hospital.

Family and Friends: Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, and Brett Wyatt,. Please let us know of those who have improved or any one who needs to be added to this list.

- **PANTRY ITEMS July 2021:** 4—Apple Sauce; 11—Canned Fruit Juice; 18—Vienna Sausages; 25—Jell-O. 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.
- **UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS:** **Fall Gospel Meeting** with Alan Adams, September 12-16, 2021. Our **School of Biblical Studies** will be conducted each Monday evening 7-9 pm, September 20—November 8, 2021. Larry Powers will teach “Church History” and Jack Phillips will teach “2 Corinthians.”
- **UPCOMING AREA EVENTS:** **Gospel Meeting** at the Dexter church of Christ, July 25-28 with Jonnie Hutchison preaching.
- **July 2021 Anniversaries:** None . **Birthdays:** 7-Chad Canter; 18-Hayes Grady 30-Jim Lowrie; If we have left anyone out please let us know.
- **Local Area TV programs:** **Sundays 7:00 am “In Search of the Lord’s Way” - KBSI Fox; 7:30 am “Good News Today” - WDKA My TV; 8:00 am “Have A Bible Question—WDKA My TV; 8:00 am “A Bible Answer” - WQQW the CW.**



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God’s Plan for Your Salvation

1. Hear the word of God—Romans 10:17.
2. Believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God—Jn 8:24
3. Repent of your sins—Acts 2:38.
4. Confess your faith in Christ—Rom. 10:9-10
5. Be immersed in water for the remission of your sins—Ac. 2:38; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4

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better and happier life now and in eternity, everlasting life in heaven Matthew 25:46; Col. 1:5).

Yes, it is your choice. But it is the most im-

portant choice you will ever make! God or Satan. Heaven or hell. **“Choose you this day whom you will serve”!**

ARE WE TO FEAR GOD? *By Eric Lyons*

The word “fear” appears in the New King James Version of the Bible 367 times. In some of these occurrences, the text is expounding upon “the fear of the Lord” and its relationship to wisdom (cf. Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7). In numerous other passages of Scripture, one can read where God commands that His creation fear Him (Leviticus 25:17; Deuteronomy 6:13; Matthew 10:28; et al.). It is widely known that one of the repeated truths in the Bible is that God’s “mercy is on those who fear Him” (Luke 1:50). It also is well known, however, that in the New Testament Paul informed Timothy that “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7). The apostle John went even further, saying, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment” (1 John 4:18).

Some time ago, I noticed where Steve Wells, author of the *Skeptic’s Annotated Bible*, highlighted 2 Timothy 1:7 and 1 John 4:18 (verses indicating Christians are **not** to fear), and placed alongside these verses twenty-six Bible references that specify **we are to fear God**. He then asked, “Should we fear God?” Obviously, it was Wells’ intent to convince his readers that the Bible’s discussion of fear is contradictory. How can a person fear God and not fear God at the same time? Although this is a question I thought a skeptic never would raise due to its seemingly obvious answer, it nevertheless requires a response.

In most cases, when the Bible praises man’s fearlessness and his need to move

beyond fear, it is using the term in a different context than the way it is used when referring to “the fear of the Lord.” The passage in 2 Timothy 1:7 is not teaching that we should not fear God; rather, Paul was instructing Timothy that we should not fear **for our lives** while doing the Lord’s work. God wants His children to be fearless in their service to Him. Such courage will help His people “not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord” (2 Timothy 1:8). Like the Israelites who were instructed by Joshua and Caleb not to fear the people of Canaan (Numbers 14:8-9), Christians must not fear their adversaries around them, nor the task before them. God expects His people to understand that “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

But what about 1 John 4:17? Is it not referring to fearing God? A person must keep in mind that the term “fear” is used in various senses in Scripture (and whenever different senses of the same word or thing are under discussion, the skeptics’ allegations hold no value). Fear can mean terror, dread, and horror; but it also can mean awe, reverence, and respect. The “perfect love” about which John writes casts out the former, not the latter. As the late Guy N. Woods noted:

“Fear,” as here contemplated, is not that which the Psalmist declares is “the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10), a reverential, godly fear, which shrinks from any action which would displease God, the fear which an obedient child has for a loving

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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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father;...but **terror, dread, slavish fear**, such as is characteristic of a slave in the presence of a cruel and heartless master.... The fear that is absent from genuine love is the fear of the whip in the hands of the master; the dread of the chastisement which comes to the disobedient. Perfect (mature) love casts out such fear, because it cannot exist where genuine love is (1979, pp. 304-305, emp. in orig.).

In Malachi 2:5, the prophet linked fear and reverence together in describing the attitude that Levi (whose name here represents the entire priestly class) possessed at one point in the past. Malachi stated: "So he feared Me, and was reverent before My name." The Hebrew word transliterated *yare'*, frequently translated "fear,"

also means "religious awe." For this reason, some modern versions (like the New American Standard) have translated Malachi 2:5 thusly: "So he **revered** Me, and **stood in awe** of My name."

Today, God expects His people to revere Him, not panic at the thought of Him as a slave might fear his cruel master. Furthermore, one way a Christian walks "in the fear of the Lord" (Acts 9:31) is by boldly following in the steps of the Savior, Who stood fearless in the face of His adversaries.

REFERENCES

Woods, Guy N. (1979), *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles of Peter, John, and Jude* (Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate).

—[Apologetics Press - Are We to Fear God?](#)

- **Study the Bible in Your Own Home.** Enroll in a Completely **Free Bible Correspondence Course**. Send your name, complete mailing address and phone number to: **Green Plain church of Christ—3980 Murray Paris Road—Hazel, KY 42049** or enroll online at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org> or email greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org.

THOSE TO SERVE JULY 2021

Announcements: Mike Ernstberger **Lord's Supper AM:** Bobby Hall and Larry Enoch

Lord's Supper PM 4-Bobby Hall | **11-**Larry Enoch; **218-**Bobby; **25-**Larry

Opening Prayer AM: **4-**Charles Enoch; **111-**Chad Canter; **18-**James Pigg **25-**Jim Lowrie.

Closing Prayer AM: **4-**Perry Jarvis; **11-**Mike Ernstberger; **18-**Junior Morris; **25-**Roy Wyatt

Song Leaders: **AM-**Perry Jarvis; **PM-** Mike Ernstberger; **Wednesday-**Chad Canter

Usher: Chad Canter; **Count Contribution:** Bobby Hall and Larry Enoch