



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 38

August 16, 2020

Number 33

Schedule of Services

- We have the privilege this Sunday at 10 AM of assembling together in the auditorium to worship

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

WHAT IF GOD TOOK CONTROL OF THE WORLD? *By Lanny Smith*

One of the criticisms offered by atheists and sceptics against the existence of God revolves around the presence of evil in the world. They opine, *“How could a just and loving God allow such evil to prevail? In the face of such evil, we must conclude that either God is NOT just and loving – or He simply does NOT exist!”* Many have fallen prey to such “logic,” and have lost their faith. Hence, I think the question stated in the title of this article is worth pursuing.

I would begin by pointing out that God **IS** in charge – and always has been! *“The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all”* (Ps.103:19). The presence of evil in this world does not in any way prove that He is unjust, is not in charge, or does not exist. Such is a non-sequitur; logically, “it does not follow.” God, in His infinite wisdom and power, has chosen to run the world by giving mankind “free will” – humans have the ability to choose evil! As a consequence of that, many humans have chosen the path of evil – and they reap the

consequences thereof. Thieves take property, Murders destroy life, adulterers destroy families, gossips destroy reputations, etc. In addition, when the first man chose the path of evil, God cursed this world ([Gn.3:17-19](#); [Rm.8:18-25](#)). This explains the destruction wrought by storms, tornadoes, hurricanes, disease, death, etc. The only alternative to God choosing to allow “free will” is that God would choose to make us mere “robots,” doing only what has been “programmed in.” That might make for a perfect world, but it’s perfection would only exist because it was “imposed” by Divine decree. ***In such a world, this very discussion would not be possible!***

But now, let’s take this discussion to the next level. God, in His infinite wisdom and power, has also chosen to develop a people in this world who have freely chosen His way. His plan to develop such a people took many forms, as it was developed over many years. The historic record of such dealings

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: **Green Plain members:** Remember Jane Morris, Faye Travis, Peggy Jarvis, Rex Enoch, Mary Crutchfield, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, Ann Thompson and Carolyn Byars. **Family and Friends:** Jenne Pool, Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, , Janice Canter, Maryanne Pedigrew, Dale Foster, Andrea Phillips, Donald and Dorothy Cook, Pat Hocking, Sandra Cook Downs, Hollis Morris (granddaughter of Brent & Jane) and Jason Rutledge (husband of April and son-in-law of Ron and Joanne Hutchison) is suffering from Covid-19 and is in the hospital in Bismarck, ND receiving treatment.

- **PANTRY ITEMS August 2020: 2—Canned Potatoes; 9—Canned Tomatoes; 16—Vienna Sausages; 23—Pinto Beans; 30—Creamed Corn.** 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.
- **See our Facebook page** for announcements, updates and articles. Access to past editions of this bulletin are available on our website at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org>.
- **Mission Work:** Please continue to pray for the preachers this congregation is supporting in India and for Ronnie Gootan, David Nance, Mike Kiser, Arnold Gerson and Paul Jones in their respective works.
- **August 2020 Anniversaries:** 13th—Gail and Jonnie Hutchison; **Birthdays:** 4th—Teresa Enoch; 10th—Brent Morris. 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.**
- **Additional Study Opportunities:** We encourage our readers to take advantage of the wealth of Bible study opportunities which are available online. There is a list of some of these at the bottom of this page. You will find scores of recorded videos and live programs that you can watch at your convenience. The Bible admonishes us to “...grow in the grace and in the *knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*” (2 Peter 3:18).
- The “pleasure” that sin brings is short-lived and never results in complete or lasting satisfaction. On the other hand, the joy of serving the Lord is “eternal in the heavens” (2 Cor. 5:1).

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/>



BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION

This Week: Who were the first people to see Jesus after His resurrection?

Last Week: How long did Jesus remain on the earth after His resurrection?

Answer: Jesus remained on the earth forty days according to Acts 1:3. Hundreds of people saw Him during this time (1 Corinthians 15:3-7).

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(i.e. the Bible) serves not only as a chronicle of the development of this plan, but also as evidence of His existence! In its fullest form, these people are identified in Scripture as “the church.” *Simply put, “the church” are those people who have chosen of their own free wills to serve God.* They have been instructed and persuaded of the proper way to live their lives (cf. [Mt.28:19-20](#)). *As a result, the church is “a living demonstration” of a world where God has taken control!* Notice:

“To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; *to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known through the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,* in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him” ([Ep.3:8-12](#)).

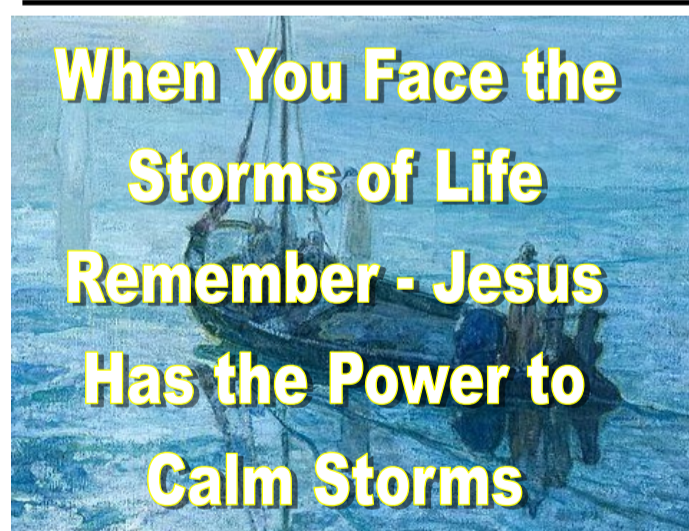
It should be noted that, in the above text, “the church” refers to the *universal* body –

i.e. those whom God knows to be faithful to Him (cf. [2Tm.2:19](#)). Local churches may have individuals who fall short of the ideal (cf. [1Cor.5:1ff](#)). But when we look at the universal family of God (i.e. the faithful), we can see exactly how this world could be, if God was in control – for these are the very people who have willingly let God control them!

What would this world be like if everyone lived a moral life? Look at the church ([Ep.5:1-11](#))! What would our homes look like if everyone in the family did their part? Look at the church ([Ep.5:22-6:4](#))! What would our cities look like if everyone was a loyal citizen? Look at the church ([Rm.13:1-7](#))! What would race relations be like if we could treat every human being like a family member? Look at the church ([Ga.3:26-29](#) [Ep.2:11-16](#))! Examples of this principle could be greatly multiplied, but you get the general idea.

Now, contrast what you see in the universal church, run by God, with the rest of the world, run by Satan. And once you have taken a good look, ask yourself, “Which way is better?” The answer is obvious!

—fishers-churchofchrist.com



Mark 4:39
Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.



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
Internet Radio
 Download App or
 listen online
<https://www.truth.fm/>

SUNDAY'S SERMON

"The Significance of Jesus' Ascension"

10:00 AM

Assemble in the Auditorium

Remember to practice social distancing

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

17 that the man of God may thoroughly equip



Gospel Broadcasting Network

<https://gbntv.org/>

**Your 24/7
 Resource for Truth and
 Salvation**

The Gospel Broadcasting Network delivers the message of salvation to people of every age through a variety of resources. GBN live Christian radio is changing hearts with the truth of the Gospel all day every day. Our goal is to save souls for eternity, worldwide, by providing free online Christian resources that answer your faith-based questions.

God Does Not Want You To Perish

(2 Peter 3:9)

- He sent Jesus Christ into the world to shed His precious blood to provide for your salvation from sin (Romans 5:8-9).
- To reach His blood and have your sins washed away you must obey what He has commanded for your salvation (Matthews 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9).
- **Hear** the good news of salvation revealed in the New Testament (Romans 10:13-17).
- **Believe** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24).
- **Repent** of your sins (Acts 17:30-31).
- **Confess** your faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10).
- **Be immersed in water**, into the death of Jesus to spiritually reach His cleansing blood (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21).
- **Live faithful** to God (2 Timothy 4:7-8).