



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 38

September 6, 2020

Number 36

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

MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE

By Jonnie Hutchison

In our day marriage has fallen on hard times. It is no longer viewed as necessary in a relationship by many people. The number of couples who have decided to live together without the commitment of marriage continues to grow. One recent news headline read, “Living together without getting married is the ‘new’ norm.” The National Center for Health Statistics reported that for almost half of women ages 15-44 their “first union” was cohabitation rather than marriage. Cohabitation is defined as “the state of living together and having a sexual relationship without being married.” Is such a relationship acceptable to God? Read God’s answer in Hebrews 13:4, “Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”



God says that marriage is honorable, that is, worthy of honor. God instituted the

marriage relationship at the very beginning of man’s existence when He declared, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Genesis 2:24) Jesus quoted this very passage and then added, “Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate” (Matthew 19:5-6). God intends the marriage of a man and woman to last a lifetime (Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10).

In marriage, the bed is undefiled. This is an obvious reference to the sexual relationship. Sex in marriage is a beautiful expression of the intimate and unique love that is to exist between husband and wife. It is something that is shared only between the two. Sex with someone other than one’s own legitimate spouse is adultery. Sex outside of the bond of marriage is fornication.

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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, and Carolyn Byars. Family and Friends: Jenne Pool, Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, , Janice Canter, Dale Foster, Andrea Phillips, Donald and Dorothy Cook, Pat Hocking, Sandra Cook Downs, Hollis Stubblefield, Jason Rutledge, James Bishop and Kevin Smith.

- **Our Sympathy** is extended to Wanda Barrett and all the family of her sister Lora Ann Pettigrew who passed from this life on Thursday, August 27th.
- **Our thanks** to all who helped with the memorial service for Margrette Enoch yesterday. Our sister is certainly missed here at Green Plain. Let's continue to pray for Rex and the family.
- **PANTRY ITEMS September 2020: 6—Peanut Butter; 13—Paper Towels; 20—Canned Peaches; 27—Canned Carrots.** 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.
- **September 2020 Anniversaries:** 28-Shane & Krysta Smith. **Birthdays:** 4-Jane Morris; 13-Mary Crutchfield; 18-Jackson Hale; 20-Peggy Jarvis; 27-Diana Travis; 28 –Carolyn Byars; 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. (Read 2 Peter 3:18).

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: Under the Law of Moses, what was the penalty for adultery?

Last Week: Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are my disciples." By what?

Answer: "...If you have love one for another" (John 13:35).

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According to the Word of God those who engage in fornication and adultery are under God's condemnation. Both adultery and fornication are included in the list of the "works of the flesh" and those who commit these sins are lost and will not go to heaven (Galatians 5:19-21). This is your state before God if you are living together without being married or if you are engaging in a sexual relationship with someone other than your husband or wife. As sex in marriage is honorable and undefiled, sex outside of marriage is dishonorable and defiled. It is not surprising that God tells us in 1

Corinthians 6:18, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

How people view the marriage relationship does not change God's view. God says marriage is worthy of honor. To dishonor the marriage relationship by engaging in the sins of adultery and fornication is to violate God's divine will and thus to sin (1 John 3:4). Let us honor the marriage relationship by recognizing its worth to couples and to society and by conforming to the will of God in our own relationships.

HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE?

By Gary L. Hutchins

The apostle Paul wrote, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9). We cannot save ourselves. It is totally, and only, by God's grace that we can be saved. But, does God expect any response on our part to His offer to save us by His grace, and does our response have anything to do with our salvation?

Many people might stammer a bit, emotionally, in answer to the first part of that question, but would give a resounding "No!" to the second part. But both parts go together. The answer to one is automatically the answer to the other. Either God does not expect any response on our part to His offer to save us by His grace, and therefore any response on our part has nothing to do with our salvation, or God does expect some response on our part, and our salvation is inseparably connected to that response.

Let's start with the bottom line. Does God expect faith in Him on our part?

The Hebrews writer states, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Heb. 11:6). Only by God's grace can we be saved, but if we do not have faith in God we cannot be saved. God also expects us to have faith in Christ as His Son and our Lord and Savior. Jesus said, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." (Jn. 8:24). Clearly, God expects faith in Him and in Christ as our responses to His offer of grace. Anything else God expects us to do?

Does God expect us to repent of our sins in response to His offer of salvation by grace? Jesus said, "unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (Lk. 13:3). On Pentecost, when asked by Jews gathered there on that day, "what shall we do?" the first word out of Peter's mouth was, "Repent..." (Acts 2:37-38). That was a question of action;

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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!

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“what shall we do?” Peter told them something they must do; they needed to “repent.” Is there any other response on our part expected by God?

The apostle Paul stated, “...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Rom. 10:10). Jesus said, “...whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matt. 10:32). Openly confessing our faith in Christ is an active response to God’s offer of salvation by grace through Christ. Is there anything else God expects of us by way of active response to His offer of salvation by grace?

As Jesus was ready to ascend back to Heaven He told the apostles to preach the gospel to everybody everywhere. Then He said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” (Mk. 16:15-16). The second thing Peter told those Jews on Pentecost that they must do, after repenting, was “and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;” (Acts 2:38). Jesus said a person will be saved when he responds to the gospel message by being baptized. Peter said a person will be forgiven of his sins as he responds by being baptized into Christ.

God saves us by His grace. But He expects us to respond to His offer in faith, repenting of our sins, confessing our faith in our Savior and being baptized for remission of our sins. Jesus added one more response. “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” (Rev. 2:10). All of these are active responses expected by God, taught in His word, and our salvation is thus inseparably connected to them.

—From *Sunny Slope church of Christ, Paducah, KY*

This is love: not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son
as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10

