

• Email: greenplain@ greenplainchurchofchrist.org

# NEWS AND NOTES

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- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** <u>Green Plain members</u>: . Remember Faye Travis, Peggy Jarvis, Rex and Margaret Enoch, , Mary Crutchfield, Vickie and Kaitlyn Canter, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes Grady, Jim Fielder, Larry Enoch and Jesse and Mary Vincent.
- <u>Family and Friends</u>: Betty Pond, Byron White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, Walter Bryars, Ann Workman, Will Winchester, Maryanne Stubblefield, Annie Lyons, Jim Hutson, Janice Canter, Maryanne Pedigrew, Dale Foster, Thomas Cooker, , Andrea Phillips and Lucetria Hutchison..
- We extend our sympathy to Faye, Diana, Eddie and all the family of Will Edd Travis who passed from this life this past week. Will Edd will be greatly missed by his family and his brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Mark Your Calendar: *Fall Gospel Meeting* with Victor Eskew begins today. All are invited to stay after the morning services for a covered dish sinner in the annex. Our evening services will be at 7:30 pm.
- Fall session of the *School of Biblical Studies* will be conducted for eight consecutive Mondays beginning on September 16th at 7:00 to 9:00 pm.
- Pantry items for September: 1—Apple Sauce; 8—Canned Carrots; 15—Children's toothpaste; 22—Canned Potatoes; 29—Apple Juice.
- Remember our **snacks for the hospital program** and place your items in the baskets in the lobby.
- **PASS IT ON!** When you have finished reading this bulletin, why not pass it on to a loved one, friend or neighbor. Use this as a tool to spread the gospel. Or, pick up extra copies to hand or mail to others.
- 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 Dale Foster, Ronnie Gootan, David Nance, Mike Kiser and Paul Jones in their respective works.
- Watch "A Bible Answer" each Sunday morning at 8:00 am on WQWQ TV in Paducah, KY. This program is also available on their website at abibleanswertv.org and on GBN and YouTube.
- September 2019 <u>Anniversaries</u>: ;28th Shane & Krysta Smith; <u>Birthdays</u> 4th Jane Morris; 13th Marry Crutchfield; 18th Jackson Hale; 20th Peggy Jarvis; 23rd Kye Luffman; 27th Dianna Travis; 28th Carolyn Byars. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.





<u>This Week</u>: Who in the Bible is called "the Word" and where is this reference found?

**Last Week**: "The just shall live by faith" is a quote found three times in the New Testament. From where in the Old Testament does this quote come?

Answer: Habakkuk 2:4.

# SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

## Each consecutive Monday Sept. 16-Nov. 4, 2019

- ⇒ I Peter—Josh Manning Eastwood Paris,TN
- $\Rightarrow$  Jonah—Brad McNutt
- Walnut Grove Benton, KY

Meet in the Annex 7-9 PM

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## ESSENTIAL NATURE OF BAPTISM

Victor M. Eskew

For some reason, the denominational world has rejected the essential nature of baptism in God's plan of salvation. They do not believe and teach that one must be baptized in order to be saved. This seems strange in light of Jesus' words in Mark <u>16:16</u>. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned."

One of the arguments devised by man against baptism is centered upon its being a work. This is interesting since the Bible nowhere declares that baptism is a work. Once placed in the category of a work, it is then rejected as being necessary to salvation based upon Paul's writings about works and deeds. One of these passages is <u>Romans</u> 3:28. "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." Baptism is said to be a deed of the law. Paul says that such deeds do not bring justification. Therefore we are told, baptism does not save. Salvation is solely and only by faith.

There are at least three points that can be made in answer to this teaching. We have already made the first one. Where in the Bible is baptism ever referred to as a work? This is an assumption and an assertion that comes from the minds of men. It is interesting, on the other hand, that Jesus refers to belief as a work of God (John 6:29).

A second point comes from the little book of James. James notes that there are works that justify. In James 2:24, he puts these works in contrast to faith only. "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." There are some works that justify mankind. Which works

these include the command to be baptized (<u>Acts 22:16</u>)? Let's listen to Peter's words of Acts 10:34-35. "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respector of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." To be accepted of God, one must work righteousness. <u>Psalm 119:172</u> tells us that all of God's commands are righteousness. This plainly affirms that the works that justify man are the works man does in obedience to God's commands.

This leads to our third point. What does Paul mean in <u>Romans 3:28</u>. The apostle plainly says that "a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." In the context of Romans 2 and 3, Paul was speaking to the Jews. Many of the Jews believed that is was necessary to keep the law of Moses in addition to the words of Christ in order to be saved (See Acts 15:5). In Romans, Paul makes a bold stand against this position. The deeds of the law of Moses are not essential to salvation. Both Jews and Gentiles are now under the new covenant of Jesus Christ. It was this law, the law of Christ, that had the power to save. This was Paul's premise from the outset of the book of Romans. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (<u>Rom. 1:16-17</u>). To apply Paul's words about the deeds of the law of Moses to acts of obedience within the New Covenant is a wrong application of the text.

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are these? Could these works be simple acts of obedience to the will of God? Could

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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!

## HAVE YOU ACCEPTED THE INVITATION?

Most of us enjoy receiving invitations to various events or social gatherings. It is somewhat of an honor to be invited into the home of a friend or neighbor or to a significant event in the lives of others we know and love. It is also a privilege to be able to invite others to share in those special times in our lives such as a wedding, graduation or some other special event which we want to share with them. For those of us who are Christians, inviting others to attend our worship services or other special events is very important to us. That is true because we want every person to hear the good news of salvation and to share in the joy of salvation.

The greatest invitation every uttered is found in the words of Jesus Christ when He said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30). One cannot read these words without seeing the great love and compassion of Jesus. He invites "all" of those burdened with the weight of sin to come to Him for relief. His promise is "rest" from the heavy burden of sin. It is only through Jesus that one can be forgiven of sin and gain the hope of eternal life and thus be relieved of the everpressing burden of sin (Acts 4:12; Romans 5:8-9). Jesus indicates that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. In comparison with the ever demanding and burdensome consequences of choosing to live a life of sin, choosing to follow Jesus is indeed easy and light for Jesus takes away that heavy burden and provides rest for one's soul.

God's plan to remove the burden of sin is clearly set forth in the New Testament. Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross to provide the means by which forgiveness of sins is extended to those willing to accept the Lord's invitation. His invitation is accepted by those who hear the gospel, believe its testimony that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, turn from the practice of sin, confess faith in Christ and are immersed in water, into the death of Jesus, for the remission of sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-38; 22:16; Romans 10:9-10, 17; 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 PeGreen Plain Proclaimer

## THOSE TO SERVE September 2019

Announcements James Pigg <u>Preside at Lord's Table</u> Chad Canter & Peggy Jarvis Substitute: Mike Ernstberger Assist at Lord's Table Jesse Vincent & Jackson Hale Substitute: James Pigg <u>Preside at Lord's Table PM</u> 9-1 Chad 9-8 Perry 9-15 Chad 9-22 Perry 9-29 Chad **Opening** Prayer 1—Mike Ernstberger 8—Jim Lowrie 15—Junior Morris 22—Hayes Grady 29—Perry Jarvis

<u>Closing Prayer</u> 1—Preston Barrett 8—James Pigg 15—Bobby Hall 22—Jonnie Hutchison 29—Dave Thompson <u>Song Leaders</u> Sunday AM—Charles Enoch Sunday PM—Chad Canter Wednesday—Eli Sales Substitute—Mike Ernstberger

<u>Count Contribution</u> Chad & Jesse <u>Collect Communion Cups</u> Nathan <u>Usher</u> Bobby Hall

ter 3:21). The Lord's invites. Will you accepted His invitation to	If unable to serve please call
salvation? — By Jonnie Hutchison	Chad Canter at 270-873-7509