



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 27

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Number 32

## **ELDERS**

John Brinkley  
Rex Enoch  
Hayes Grady  
Billy Joe Stubblefield  
Bobby Ward

## **DEACONS**

Robert Barrett  
Larry Enoch  
Rob Enoch  
Bobby Hall  
Max Henry  
Robert Meredith  
Jesse Vincent  
Eddie Ward

## **PREACHER**

Robert Meredith  
Telephone:  
(270) 492-8206

## **HOW TO ATTAIN GRACE**

- 1. HEAR THE GOSPEL**  
(*Mark 16:15*)
- 2. BELIEVE IT**  
(*Mark 16:16*)
- 3. REPENT OF SINS**  
(*Acts 2:38*)
- 4. CONFESS CHRIST**  
(*Matthew 10:32*)
- 5. BE BAPTIZED**  
(*Acts 2:38*)

## **HOW TO MAINTAIN GRACE**

- 1. BE FAITHFUL**  
(*Revelation 2:10*)
- 2. LIVE BY THE GOSPEL**  
(*Philippians 1:27*)
- 3. ASSEMBLE WITH SAINTS**  
(*Hebrews 10:25-31*)
- 4. WORSHIP IN SPIRIT &  
TRUTH**  
(*John 4:24*)
- 5. BE WILLING TO REPENT**

## **The Grace of God** **J. Noel Merideth**

The word “grace” means *favor*, and when we speak of “God’s grace” we refer to the *unmerited favor* of God. It is the abounding goodness which He shows toward the children of men. This favor is unmerited because God is under no obligation to favor us at all. We are in sin and so there is no merit to make God favor us. But we should remember that grace and obedience are not opposed in the Scriptures. It is unfortunate that many religious people assume that salvation by God’s grace eliminates man’s obedience to God’s commands. As a matter of fact, God’s grace is received through obedience to His will. God requires us to keep His commandments (1 John 2:4; 5:3), but He saves by grace (Ephesians 2:5); it follows, therefore, that salvation by grace involves the keeping of God’s commandments.

Ephesians 2:1-3 describes the state of the lost Gentiles before they became Christians. Paul

writes they were dead through their trespasses and sins. The religious world largely holds that people are dead in sin because of their relation to Adam; that on account of Adam's sin we are born in sin. But Paul here attributes death to "**your** *trespasses and sins*." It was not Adams sin (singular number) but "your" trespasses and sins (plural number). It was the people's own sins. Their former walk in their sins was according to the course of this world. They had allowed the world to determine the plane on which they lived. Their life was according to the prince of the powers of the air, which is no other than Satan himself. Jesus once said to some people, "*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father it is your will to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and standeth not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father thereof*" (John 8:44).

All accountable people have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Paul speaks of this universal sin as living in the lusts of our flesh. By the desires of the flesh is meant those gross sensual sins which gratify the lusts of the flesh. By the desires of the mind is meant wicked thoughts and purposes which may be entertained in the mind. Such sins as envy, pride, covetousness and secret lusts of the mind are included in this group. Paul writes that such children of wrath are such by nature. The word "nature" here does not mean birth. People are not born the children of wrath but they are by use and habit in sin the children of wrath. Thayer defines the Greek word here translated "nature," "A

mode of feeling and acting which by long habit has become nature." Paul's description of the lost state here is: (1) they are dead in trespasses and in sins; (2) they walked according to the course of this world; (3) they lived in the lusts of the flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and the mind, and (4) they were by nature children of wrath.

But though man was lost in sin, God being rich in *mercy* and having great *love* made us alive together with Christ. As Christ came forth to new life from the tomb, in His resurrection, so we are raised up with Him. Twice Paul says we are saved by God's *grace* (Ephesians 2:5, 8). WE are saved "*by grace...through faith*." It is not by grace alone; this would eliminate human responsibility. Nor is it by faith alone; this would make unnecessary God's part of salvation. Nor is by faith alone to eliminate obedience. The word faith is inclusive of the conditions of salvation, it is where the part is put for the whole. Faith is put for all the acts which God requires of man. God gives man the capacity to believe, reveals to him the things to believe, and ample testimony to produce the faith required; but man must believe and obey himself (John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16, Romans 1:16). "That" not of yourselves and "it" is the gift of God; refers to the salvation earlier mentioned. Faith comes through hearing the word of God and is not a miraculous gift as some allege (Romans 10:17). This system of salvation which Paul explains is not of works, that is, of "meritorious works." Were man able to devise his own system of salvation he might indeed find occasion for boasting; but when he submits to the plan which God gave, he relies on

God's grace and mercy for salvation, and not on any kind of human works of boasting. Salvation by grace through faith does not eliminate obedience to the commands of God; it requires such. In every instance in the Bible, where it is said that works are excluded from the plan of salvation, the "works" under consideration are man's, apart from God's. He who works in keeping the commandments of God, simply perfect faith (James 2:14-26). We are justified by a faith that works through love (Galatians 5:6; Acts 10:34).

The grace of God is clearly revealed in the gift of His Son through the gospel (Titus 2:11-14). It is through the gospel that we see the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Paul says that salvation from sin was for all men. This means that provision had been made for the salvation of the world. God wants all men to be saved. The only reason all men are not going to be saved is that not all men are willing to be submissive to the gospel. The negative instruction of the grace of God is that we must deny ourselves ungodliness and worldly lusts. The positive teaching of this grace is that we live (1) soberly—our duty to ourselves, (2) righteously—our duty to our fellow man, and (3) godly—our duty to God. We look forward to the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave Himself for us that He might "redeem" us, i.e., to pay the ransom price to buy us from sin. He gave Himself for us that we might be purified unto Himself a people for His own possession, zealous of good works.



**Prayer List:** **Brent Klinzing** (Pansy Henry's grandson), **Thomas Lovett** (Mary White's brother), **Parvin Miller** (Mary Vincent's step-father), **Joan Turnbow** (Betty Enoch's mother), **Gail Wright** and any who may be in need of our prayers.

**Shut-ins:** **Anne Brinkley, Tom Meredith & Mary Miller.**

## News at Green Plain

**Thank you for the gift certificate and the cards we received with the death of our daughter.**

**Jim & Jean**

**Elders/Deacons Meeting: Wednesday, the 19th.**

**Monthly Luncheons:** Our monthly luncheons will be on **Thursday, the 20th.** The **ladies** are going to **Culvers** and the **men** to **Mary's Kitchen.**

**Singing:** **Joiner's Chapel church of Christ; Friday, the 14th, beginning at 7:30 p.m.**

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men."  
Titus 2:11

### ATTENDANCE August 9, 2009

<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>Worship P.M.</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Worship A.M.</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>Mid-week (8-5)</b>	<b>61</b>

GREEN PLAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
3980 MURRAY PARIS ROAD  
HAZEL, KY 42049

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. BULK RATE  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hazel, KY  
Permit No. 6

The church building is located  
southeast of Murray -  
One mile off highway 641 -  
Near the corner of the Green  
Plain and Murray Paris Roads

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE  
August 2009**

USHERS: Eddie Ward & Robert Barrett  
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chad Canter

PRESIDE AT THE LORD'S TABLE:  
A.M.: Max Henry & James Pigg  
Substitute: Bobby Hall

ASSIST AT THE LORD'S TABLE :  
A.M.: Frank Towery & Preston Barrett  
Substitute: Robert Meredith

Sunday P.M.  
8-16.....Hayes Grady  
8-23.....James Pigg  
8-30.....Frank Pool

SCRIPTURE READING:  
8-16.....Hayes Grady (Is. 59:1-2)  
8-23.....Paul Brandon  
8-30.....Larry Enoch

OPENING PRAYER:  
8-16.....John Brinkley  
8-23.....Roy Wyatt  
8-30.....Rex Enoch

CLOSING PRAYER:  
8-16.....Bill Stubblefield  
8-23.....Preston Barrett  
8-30.....Frank Towery

COUNT CONTRIBUTION:  
Robert Barrett & Paul Brandon

SONG LEADERS:  
Sunday Morning...Charles Enoch  
Sunday Evening....Larry Enoch  
Wednesday.....Bill Stubblefield  
Substitute.....James Pigg

COLLECT COMMUNION CUPS:  
Matthias Meredith & Kye Luffman

GREETERS: Chad & Vicki Canter  
LAWN CARE: Larry Enoch


If you are unable to serve, please contact  
Jesse Vincent at 293-1537.

? **Matthew 18**

1. Jesus said we are to become as what to enter the kingdom?
2. Figuratively speaking, if your hand or foot offend you, what should you do?
3. What verses teach what one should do if a brother trespass against him?
4. How many times did Jesus say we are to forgive?

1. Little children (verse 3)
2. Cut them off (verse 8)
3. Verses 15-17
4. 70 X 7 (unlimited)

**Remember to  
bring snacks for  
the hospital.**



**Pantry Item  
Coffee**

**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

Sunday:

Bible Classes.....10:00 A.M.  
Worship.....10:45 A.M.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 P.M.  
For transportation call 492-8206  
“A Friendly Welcome Awaits You”

**RADIO PROGRAMS**

**WORDS OF LIFE RADIO BROADCAST**  
Weekdays, 11:30 AM.WNBS RADIO (1340 AM) Murray, KY

**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES RADIO BROADCAST**  
Sunday, 7:30 A.M...WNBS RADIO (1340 AM) Murray, KY

**PHONE:**(270) 492-8206  
**WEB SITE:** www.greenplain.org  
**EMAIL ADDRESS:** greenplain@greenplain.org

**SERMON TOPICS FOR  
August 16, 2009**

A.M. - Sin, the Wall of Separation

P.M. - What Sustains You?

**WHAT ONE MUST DO TO BE SAVED**

**Hear the gospel**  
*Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17*

**Believe**  
*Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6*

**Repent**  
*Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30*

**Confess faith in Christ**  
*Mt. 10:32, Acts 8:37, Rom. 10:10*

**Be baptized (immersed)**  
*Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 22:16;  
Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21*

**Continue faithful unto death**  
*Mt. 25:21,34; 2 Pt. 1:1-11; Rev. 2:10; 1 Jn. 1:6-9*