



The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP
THE BODY OF CHRIST

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CAN GOD AND EVIL COEXIST?

There is so much evil in the world today! That is a common refrain which is constantly reinforced by the complete coverage of our 24-hour, worldwide news services.

The more we are confronted with evil, the louder the clamoring insistence that there is no God. If you dig deeper than the surface-level protests that the media loves to cover, you find objections to the existence of God that seem to be ironclad. They are not as arousing as a good old protest march. They are usually expressed in the halls of academia, but they are nonetheless persuasive arguments for those who want to live as if the only moral law is society's current point of view. What are these unassailable arguments against the existence of God? Consider the following syllogism:

*If God is all good, He would destroy evil.
If God is all powerful, He could destroy evil.
But evil is not destroyed.
Hence, there is no such God.*

Sounds like a solid logical proposition that really cannot be challenged, doesn't it? But we need to remember that a syllogism is a form of reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn from two given or assumed propositions that share a term with the conclusion and share a term that is not present in the conclusion--and that conclusion *may or may not be valid*. That's the important thing to remember!

The argument isn't as "bulletproof" as it seems. As Geisler and Brooks note in their book, *When Skeptics Ask*, evil does not disprove the existence of God. Evil is a lack of something that should be in a relationship between good things. God is good, and God made man and saw that man, made in His image, was very good (Gen. 1:31). In making man in His image, God gave man the freedom to make choices. Without that freedom, man would not be in the image of God.

Without that freedom, a man would love God and would be incapable of not loving God. Loving God without choice isn't really love. Therefore, God gave man the freedom that will let man choose to do good but also allow him to not choose good. In that instance, the thing that is lacking in the relationship between God and man is man's choice to not do good. That's the source of evil. Here is another syllogism:

*God made everything perfect.
One of the perfect things God made was free creatures (man and angels).
Free will is the cause of evil.
Therefore, imperfection (evil) can arise from perfection (man and angels).*

Because we have the free will to decide between alternatives, we can choose to do good or evil. That's why Jesus told the lawyer, "**you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.**" This is the great and foremost commandment." (Mt. 22:37-38). Our choice not to keep His commandments does not prove that He cannot prevent evil and therefore cannot be God. And to assume that because evil exists today that it will always exist, and that therefore it will always be illogical to believe in God, is a faulty assumption. Here is a syllogism that skeptics don't offer:

*If God is all-good, He will defeat evil.
If God is all-powerful, He can defeat evil.
Evil is not yet defeated.
Therefore, God can and will one day defeat evil.*

That is exactly what the Bible teaches! That is what our logical hope is based upon. That is why a Christian need not be ashamed of the gospel of God when challenged by those who deny His existence.

(For further studies, see Geisler-Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask*, pp. 59-64, 1989.)





What were the names of Abraham's first two sons? Who chose those names? Who were the first ones to whom the names were revealed?

Answer to last week's question: Tertius wrote the words of Paul in the letter sent to the church at Rome. Romans 16:22 is the only place his name appears in the New Testament. No one submitted the correct answer.

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, March 2, 2017:

- Thursday—Romans 7-8
- Friday—Genesis 12-15
- Saturday—Joshua 16-20
- Sunday—Psalms 9-11
- Monday—Job 7-8
- Tuesday—Isaiah 18-22
- Wednesday—Matthew 8-10

2017 sign-up sheets for communion preparation and sound/projector are on the bulletin board.

We are also in need of more volunteers for nursery duty and leading the youngsters in song before the services.

For the Record—2-26-17	
Sunday AM	147
Sunday PM	39
Wednesday (2-22-17)	51
Contribution	\$3,822
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$39,308
YTD Budget	\$52,200

KEPT IN PRAYER

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Nelderine Johnson**, who passed away recently. Sister Johnson was Dr. Lerey Johnson's mother.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Donald Mickan**, who passed away February 24, 2017. Services are at Froberg Funeral Home at Oak Park, 300 Oak Park Dr, Alvin TX 77511 today (March 1, 2017) as follows: Visitation from 5 PM to 7 PM in Oak Park Chapel followed by the funeral service at 7 PM. There will be a graveside service on March 2, 2017, at 1 PM in Franklin TX.

David Smith has been hospitalized, and doctors are evaluating further treatment. NO VISITORS are allowed at this time.

Debbie Brown is recuperating from a broken right foot.

Doug Matthews' pancreatic cancer is in remission. Doug is the father-in-law of Celia Matthews, Linda Fabian's cousin.

Ryan Rangel, friend of Greg Fabian, is making progress in his recovery from bone cancer.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David Clayton, Jeff Coe, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Jo Knight, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Jan Lemoine, Valerie McHargh, Harold & Alice Moore, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, Chase Shelton, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville, Angela Terry. **Others:** Carol Addison, Leona Anderson, Catherine Bailey, Octaline Beaupierre, Jeffrey Buesch, Raquel Castillo, Debbie Cook, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Larry & Carla Doolen, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Roger Farmer, Gwen Fikes, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Robert Hudman, Kaliya Kelly, Mickey & Kathleen Kennada, Elaine King, Kerry Lemoine, Martha Locke, Austin, Celia Matthews, Jim & Julie Maxcey, Shirley McWhorter, Mary Means, Pat Miller, Lewis Moss, James Navarro's son, Jean Nudelman, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Alice Puckett, Ryan Rangel, Trena Russell, Sandra Brown Ryan, Butch Sapp, Shirley Scarsdale, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Tony Smajstrla, Andrew Smith, Michael Smith, Rick Stone, Erin & Elijah Timmons, Leon Vanderveer, Bennett Vincent, Alexis Anderson Washington, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Anthony Young, Lesli (friend of Heather Brown's friend), Dakota (baby boy of Lianne Biegay's friend).

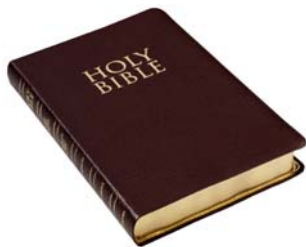
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kevin Scarsdale is our contact elder for **March**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Kevin**.

We were saddened to learn that Greg and Linda Fabian will be moving to Savannah, Georgia. We will miss them, but wish them well in their new home and job.

March 2017

- 1 Wednesday Night with the Master—6 PM—Annex. Menu is fried chicken, potato salad, baked beans, and rolls. If there are questions, please contact Jo Knight and Nina Layton. Areas of service begin at 7 PM.
- 5 Birthday celebration following evening services for Jo Knight and Jean Coe. A cake will be furnished. Last names beginning with A-M, bring sandwiches. Last names beginning with N-Z, bring chips and dips.
- 6 Secret Sisters—6:30 PM—Casa Olé, 3100 Broadway St, Pearland TX 77581. Jean Adams and Janice Pearson are the hostesses.
- 8 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 11 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 22 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex



The League City Church of Christ is holding a gospel meeting March 5-8, 2017. There is more information on our bulletin board.

The ladies in the March food preparation group are: Gretchen Whitmire, Lucille Adams, and Beverly Stewart. Please contact Kristin Alatrash if there are questions.

March Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 4 DC Brown | 5 Christi Hines |
| 6 Taylor Cuellar | 12 Ashley Hundley |
| 13 Bennie Sue Galindo | 17 Pat Wagoner |
| 19 Trudy Knight | 19 Sandy Stone |
| 22 Appeal Byers | 29 Judy Indest |
| 30 Candice Townzen | 31 Heather Cook |
| 31 Mary Holmberg | |

March Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9 DC & Debbie Brown | 14 Jeff & Gena Coe |
| 16 Grayson & Candice Townzen | 22 Greg & Linda Fabian |
| 22 Gene & Stephanie Forster | 22 Larry & Delores Truelove |
| 31 Russell & Canova Genaro | |

Those to Serve

Pearland Church of Christ

...equipping the saints for the work
of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436

Wednesday Evening March 1	Wednesday Evening March 8
Building Lock Up—C Lindelof WNWTM	Building Lock Up—K Scarsdale

Morning Worship March 5	Morning Worship March 12
Opening Prayer Bob Williams	Opening Prayer Chris Lindelof
Song Leader Paul Cartwright	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion	Communion
Presiding: James Maxcey	Presiding: Bob Williams
Tom Langford Matthew Fabian	Russell Genaro Charlie Story
Jake Satterwhite Nathan Scarsdale	Blake Williams Daniel Brown
Gheath Alatrash Jimmy Terry	Phil Godwin Paul Hamilton
Announcements Kevin Scarsdale	Announcements Kevin Scarsdale
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Laurie Maxcey	Lianne Biegay Appeal Byers
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Zack Williams, Lynn Adams, Bobby Parker	*Clifford Layton, Grayson Townzen, James Maxcey
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Mauney	Mauney
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—K Scarsdale	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—G Adams
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader TBD
Communion James Maxcey, Bobby Parker	Communion Daniel Brown, Russell Genaro
Closing Prayer Kevin Scarsdale	Closing Prayer Kevin Scarsdale

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am
Morning Worship.....10 am
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

ELDERS

*Gary Adams 281-797-2575
Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183
Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866*

DEACONS

*James Maxcey
Bobby Parker
Charlie Story
Bob Williams*

MINISTERS

*D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
Zack Williams Youth Minister*

MISSIONARIES

*Benin, West Africa:
Paul Tohionon - Bohicon
Pascal Djedatin - Dassa
Blaise Atta - Bétérou
Clément Djebede - Okéwo
Gaston Nda - Natitingou
Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou
André Assogba - Gobé
Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé
Paul Kouagou - N'Dali
Jonas Sambieni - Kaboua
Gabin Agbeci - Savalou
Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies
Lewis Romain*