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**THE PLEASANT GROVE PLANTER** “The seed is the word of God”, Luke 8:11Pleasant Grove Church of Christ 2070 Old Highway 27 Trion, GA 30753 706.734.2722 pleasantgrovecoc.org

**What a Friend We Have**

By Allen Webster

Joseph Scriven was engaged to be married following graduation from the University of Dublin, Ireland, in 1842. The night before the wedding, his fiancée tragically drowned. Heartbroken, he crossed the Atlantic to Lake Rice, Canada, where he lived as a tutor for many years. He fell in love a second time in 1860 and became engaged to Eliza Roche. But before they could be married, she died of tuberculosis. He spent the remainder of his life serving the poor. As an old man, racked with illness, he stayed with a friend who discovered a poem Scriven had written years earlier to comfort his grieving mother. Its words are now world famous:

*What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear;*

*What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.*

*O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,*

*All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.*

**JESUS IS “A FRIEND THAT STICKETH CLOSER THAN A BROTHER”** (Proverbs 18:24b) You may have been disappointed by friends who promised to be somewhere or do something and failed to show or do. A “friend” may have sold you out when the chips were down. But there is one friend who has never disappointed you. His name is Jesus: “For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper” (Hebrews 13:5-6). He is there with the “balm of Gilead” when life’s wounds are deep (Jeremiah 8:22; John 14:1). He is there in the fiery furnace when we are “cast into persecution’s fire” (Daniel 3:23; 2 Timothy 3:12). He is always there for us to “cast our care upon him” (1 Peter 5:7).

**JESUS IS A FRIEND WHO DARED “LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS”** (John 15:13). This is the single greatest act of friendship ever shown. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” He “tasted death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9) --- and did it when we were at odds with Him! “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:7-8). Who can forget the forgiving words His swollen tongue and parched lips mouthed to his enemies at the end (Luke 23:34)?

**JESUS IS A FRIEND WHO MADE KNOWN ALL THINGS THAT HE HEARD FROM HIS FATHER.** (John 15:15) Jesus was privy to information that we needed. No one else could tell us. Like a good friend, he let us “in on the secret.” We needed to know the way to heaven, and he had come from there to show us the way (John 14:1-3; Revelation 4:4). He claimed to be the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). He even blazed the trail for us (Hebrews 2:10), so that all we need to do is walk in his steps (1 Peter 2:21). He, as our friend, left the plan of salvation for us --- faith (John 3:16); repentance (Luke 13:3); confession (Matthew 10:32), baptism (Mark 16:16); and godly living (Luke 9:23).

Listen to him speak and think of your life: “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you” (John 15:14).

Are you the Lord’s friend?

**September 17, 2023**

Sunday Morning

Opening Prayer Kevin Hayes

Closing Prayer Joseph Tucker

Scripture Reading Payton Payne

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Jon Dyke

Closing Prayer Joey Jones

**Remember in prayer:**

Steve Fletcher (recuperating at home).

Pat Campbell (will begin radiation and chemo treatments soon).

Julie Sandlin is at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL; Wally Booker, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund, Kelly Tinney, Carrie Price, David Paden, Caitlin Meredith, Johnny Brimer, Wilma Jane Maynard

**Jane Bishop** (Oak View Nursing Home)

**Jane York** (Life Care, Collegedale, TN)

**Millie Hardin** (Macon)

**Polly Hayes** (Oak View Nursing Home)

**Kids Sing, today at 5:00 pm.**

**Brothers Keepers Group Two** will meet following our worship services tonight.

Record for week of September 10, 2023:

10 am 11 am 5 pm Wed. Contribution

 91 92 86 108 $4440.00

**Weekly Assemblies**

**Sunday:**

Morning Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.

Evening Worship: 5:00 p.m.

First Sunday 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**Daily Bible Readings:**

September 17-23 The Christian’s Hope

17 Psalm 16:1-11; 23:1-6

18 John 6:35-51; 14:1-7

19 1 Cor 15:1-11, 51-58

20 1 Peter 1:1-12

21 Rom 8:16-39

22 2 Cor 4:16-5:9

23 Heb 6:1-20

**Consider the Children**

By Carroll Sites

Children are precious. The Psalmist wrote, *“Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward”* (127:3). Children are brought into this world with no decision of their own. Yet many are abused, used as pawns, neglected, denied, and betrayed. Dr. R. F. Hertz, a British author and psychologist, engaged in a research project of wide interest. He asked almost 100,000 children, between 8 and 14 and from all walks of life in 24 countries, to make a list of 10 rules of **BEHAVIOR FOR PARENTS.** Here is the list the majority of children voted for:

Do not quarrel in front of your children.

Treat all your children with equal affection.

Never lie to a child.

There must be mutual tolerance between parents.

There should be comradeship between parents and children.

Treat your children’s friends as welcome visitors in the house.

Always answer children’s questions.

Don’t blame or punish your children in the presence of children from next door.

Concentrate on your child’s good points. Do not overemphasize his failings.

Be constant in your affection and your mood.

This list should cause parents to stop, look and listen. Read it carefully, thoughtfully, and with self-inspection of your home. How are the children being treated in YOUR home? They are precious. They deserve the best. God gave this advice, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

**Elders:** Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

**Deacons:** Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

**Minister:** Hugh Glaze

**Song Leader:** Adam Morgan