

# PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

June 2, 2024

## Welcome!



*"He does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a warrior. The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy."*

Join us again at 6:00pm for worship and another lesson from God's Word

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## Prayer List

**Alan Wilkerson** has had a skin cancer removed from his scalp

**Norman Maxwell** was able to go home after successful surgery

**Levi Bearden** has gotten positive results from post-surgery tests

**Mamie Hamilton** is still dealing with back and knee pain.

**Faye Head** is doing therapy on her hand

Continue to pray for: **Ronnie Mayo, Darinda Paul, Rebecca Brown, Hunter Crouch, Burt Wilkerson, Donnie Garrett, Keith Walker** and family, **Forshia Pennington, Carol Saling, Camille Brosky**, those in **Ukraine; John Hayes**, and **Bill Gillock**

### Summer Series 2024

Our Summer Series begins **THIS Wednesday Night (June 5)** at 7pm and runs throughout June and July. Please make plans to attend and invite your friends and neighbors.

*We invite everyone to join us Wednesday night at 7pm for a lesson from Ken Palmer*

## Serving Today

**Song Leader:**  
Steve Buchanan

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)

**Scripture Reading:**  
Charlie Baker

**Prayer:**  
Johnny Walker

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

**Scripture Reading:**  
Mike Reed  
*Luke 9:57-62*

**Wait On Table:**  
Jared Roaden

**Serve:**  
Doug Demonbreun  
Jearmie Gupton

**Prayer:**  
Jeff Baker

## Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 am
Sunday PM Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

## Follow Us



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**Matthew 12:36** - *I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak...*

Will young children be accountable on the day of judgment? We've already looked at the concept of Original Sin (Lesson 11) and concluded that children are not guilty of their parent's (or Adam's) sin (**Rom 5:12**). So, if infants do not inherit sin, at what point do children become accountable for their own sin?

**Moral Maturity and Accountability** - All scriptures that discuss our sinful nature assume a moral maturity beyond young children. Consider Paul's description of man's sinful nature in **Eph 2:1-3**, where he describes our life before Christ with phrases like "following the course of this world" and "carrying out the desires of the body and the mind..." Consider Paul's own struggle with his sinful nature in **Rom 7:15-18** where he states "I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out". These phrases would never be associated with young children because they lack the moral maturity for this type of thinking and decision making. If they lack moral maturity, they will not be held accountable before God.

Consider that Jesus told the Pharisees in **John 9:41**, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt..." In a sense, children are spiritually blind due to their lack of capacity for moral reasoning. In **Mark 10:14-16**, Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God..." This statement would make no sense unless children were innocent of sin. Consider the "little ones" with "no knowledge of good or evil" were not held accountable for their father's sins after the Exodus (**Deut 1:37-40**).

Do children commit wrongful acts or sometimes lie, cheat, and steal? Of course! Are they often selfish and un-sharing? Yes! Do they always obey their parents? Certainly not! Will they be condemned to hell for this? Consider a scenario where a two-month-old inherits a million dollars in a trust. They are not given immediate control over it but must wait until they are old enough to manage it responsibly. Some might call them a "millionaire", but they would not be held accountable for what happens to the money at such a young age.

Likewise, we are not held accountable for our sinful nature until we have matured sufficiently to be aware of the spiritual choices to be made. We recognize this concept of immature moral capacity in our own legal system. This is why we have Juvenile Justice AND Adult Criminal Courts. They are separate because there is an assumption that juveniles lack sufficient moral capacity to make good decisions.

Childhood is a time for moral instruction, not spiritual condemnation. Does this moral instruction sometimes require discipline (consequences) for their actions? Yes! Does this mean they are sinners condemned to hell? No!

**When Does Accountability Begin?** - The reality is that no specific age is identified in scripture when a child will become accountable. All individuals mature at different rates. Based on the moral maturity described above, determining accountability is completely dependent on the individual. To be accountable, a person must be...

- Capable of the willful rejection of God (i.e. choosing to disobey Him)
- Capable of the LOVE of sin in their heart (Eph 2:1-3)
- Capable of understanding and identifying their own sin (Matt 5:3)
- Capable of choosing to repent and begin their new life through baptism (Acts 2:38)

**What If Someone Dies Before They Are Accountable?** - Consider the words of David after the death of his child with Bathsheba (**2 Sam 12:16-23**). His servants were surprised David had stopped fasting and praying once he learned of the death. David replied, "Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him**, but he will not return to me." David was confident he would see his son again in heaven.