



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

January 17, 2021

Number 3

Schedule of Services

- 10:00 AM
Sunday
Worship
- 7:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study

Elders

- Mike Ernstberger
270-753-2108 Home
270-293-7027 Cell
- James Pigg
270-759-2145 Home
270-293-2319 Cell

Deacons

- Larry Enoch
- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison
Cell: 270-978-7569

Supporting Works

India—Dale Foster, David
Nance, and Ronnie Gootam
McKenzie, TN—Paul Jones

Location

- Green Plain Church of Christ
3980 Murray Paris Road
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone: (270) 492-8206
- Email: [greenplain@
greenplainchurchofchrist.org](mailto:greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

PLEASE COME HOME *By Jonnie Hutchison*

No one can successfully deny that Christians sometimes yield to sin and become unfaithful to the Lord. Most often one of the first outward evidences that there is a problem is the absence of the erring child of God from the worship assembly. That is why elders and other Christians become so concerned when a brother or sister ceases to assemble for worship (See Hebrews 10:25).

The Bible pictures the church as the spiritual family of God. God is our Father and we who are Christians are His children. Romans 1:7 reads, “*Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*” Jesus expressed this family relationship when He said, “*For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother*” (Matthew 12:50).

The parable of the lost boy (Matthew 15:11ff), vividly illustrates the spiritual condition of an unfaithful Christian and his or her great need to come home. In the parable the younger of two sons asked his father to give him his inheritance. Upon receiving his portion, the younger son went

to a “far country” and wasted all that he had indulging himself in sinful activities. Many a Christian has done the same, leaving their spiritual Father and family to go into the “far country” of sinful neglect and wasting their lives in unfaithfulness.

After his self-indulgence and wasteful living, the lost boy in the Lord’s parable found himself in poverty eating the food fed to the swine. Under such adverse conditions the boy began to think about home and what he was missing. At home he had many blessings that were no longer available to him in his present state. At home he was loved and cared for. At home he could enjoy the fellowship of family.

When a Christian forsakes the Lord and chooses to live in sin he or she no longer has access to the spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Instead one suffers the worst kind of poverty imaginable—separation from one’s Father and His spiritual family. In that condition the hope, the joy and the fellowship one once knew is gone.

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Green Plain members:* Remember Faye Travis Peggy Jarvis, Rex Enoch (Murray Hospital), Mary Crutchfield, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, Carolyn Byars, Mary and Jim Lowrie, Mary and Jesse Vincent and Steve Enoch (Rehab).

Family and Friends: Helen Tidwell, Jenne Pool, Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, , Janice Canter, , Andrea Phillips, Donald and Dorothy Cook, Sandra Cook Downs, Kevin Smith, Dale Pentecost Jaime Aguavo, Jr., and Steve Ernestberger (Murray Hospital with Covid).

- **WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY:** As the COVID-19 virus continues to spread we need to continue to observe all safety measures. Please continue to pray for those who have contacted the virus and for those treating them. We will continue meeting each Sunday morning at 10:00 am for worship and on Wednesday at 7:00 pm for Bible study.
- **PANTRY ITEMS January 2021:** 3—Peanut Butter; 10—Ketchup; 17—Baked Beans; 24—Green Peas; 31—Green Beans. Please bring any additional items you wish for the “blessing box” which is located next to the breezeway on the north side of the building.
- **January 2021 Anniversaries:** None. **Birthdays:** 14—Shame Smith; 18—Karen Hall; 26—Marjorie Grady; If we have left anyone out please let us know.
- **We offer FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES through the mail.** Enroll on our website or send your name and return mailing address to the address on the first page of this bulletin. You may also call 270-978-7569 or you may email us at greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Gospel Broadcasting Network
<https://gbntv.org/>

World Video Bible School
<https://store.wvbs.org/wvbs-splashpage.html>

A Bible Answer
<https://abibleanswertv.org/>

Good News Today
<http://gnttv.org/>

In Search of the Lord's Way
<http://searchtv.org/>



BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION

This Week: In the book of Judges, who was Barak?

Last Week: Who was Candace?

Answer: Candace was the queen of Ethiopia whom the Eunuch, whose record of conversion is found in Acts 8, served as treasurer (Acts 8:27).

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The boy in the Lord's parable finally realized that the only way to change his situation was to admit his sins and return to his father. He determined that when he arrived at home he would tell his father, *"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants"* (Luke 15:18-19). It is obvious that the son did not expect his father to accept him back with open arms. But the father did. *"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring*

the fattest calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry" (Luke 15:20-24). The love and the desire the father had for His son to return home is obvious. The father knew that being home was the best thing for his son and he was more than willing to forgive his penitent son and restore him to his place.

The father in the Lord's parable represents our heavenly Father. Our Father does not want you to remain in the "far country" of sin, a desperate and hopeless place to be. His loving desire is your restoration to His fellowship. He wants **YOU** to **COME HOME!** When you do repent and come back to Him, He will receive you with open arms. He will celebrate your return with great joy and restore the spiritual blessings that are yours because you are His child, home at last. Please, **COME HOME!**

A Fresh Start by Steve Higginbotham

It may seem hard to believe, but we we passed from the year 2020 to the year 2021, and do you know what that means?

It means we get a "fresh start," a "new beginning," a "second chance," a "clean slate," and a "blank page upon which to be written."

Well, at least that's what I hear. But if I may, I would like to challenge you to rethink those comments and similar comments. The flipping of a calendar from December to January doesn't give anyone a "fresh start," or a "blank page." Only the blood of Jesus can do that. The passing of time or the flipping of a calendar doesn't erase our past mistakes, doesn't give us a fresh start, and doesn't clear our record. Those things are only accomplished through repentance.

Don't get me wrong, the first of January certainly holds the possibilities of a "new be-

ginning," but no differently than any other day or month of the year. Friends, if you were waiting for the end of the year to erase your past mistakes and to give you a fresh start by making some noble and grand resolutions, may I suggest to you that it doesn't work that way. The fresh start that we all need does not come through resolutions but through repentance.

Resolutions are wonderful. However, they do not erase our past mistakes. That requires repentance. All that resolutions without repentance will do for us is make us better behaved sinners.

Do you want a "blank page," a "clean slate," or a "fresh start?" Then, don't confuse your resolution with repentance, humble yourself before God, seek the forgiveness he offers, and you'll find it — no matter what day of the year it is.



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!

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LESSON TODAY



GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK



GBNTV.ORG



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

7:00 PM

A Study of 2 Timothy

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
(2 Tim. 2:15)

STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED

