



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 37

January 27, 2019

Number 4

## Schedule of Services

- **Sunday**  
Bible Classes  
10:00 Amma  
Morning Worship  
10:45 am  
Evening Worship  
6:00 pm
- **Wednesday**  
Bible Classes 7:00 pm

## 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  
MSOP—Bradley Smith

## 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)

## SEEKING THE KINGDOM & RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD FIRST By Jonnie Hutchison

Most of our readers are very familiar with the statement of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 6:33, “*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all of these things shall be added unto you.*” These words are found in the context of where Jesus gives assurance of the fact that God knows our physical needs and is more than willing to supply the necessities of this present life - food, clothing and shelter (Matt. 6:25:33). Yet, Jesus emphasizes in verse 25 that “*life is more than meat and the body more than raiment.*” There is something in life much more vital and important than even the physical necessities of life and that is to “*seek firth the kingdom of God and His righteousness.*”

What does it mean “*to seek*”? One seeks something in order to find it, to grasp or hold on to it. It is that which occupies ones thinking and is ones continuous aim or goal.

The word “*first*” indicates the priority of the seeking. This seeking takes first place, not second, third, or fourth, but first. It is the primary purpose in the seekers

life.

The object that is sought first is two-fold—the Kingdom and the righteousness of God. The Kingdom of God is sometimes used in the New Testament in reference to the church of Christ (Matthew 16:18-19; Rom. 14:17; Col. 1:13). The saved are added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:37-47). The church is the spiritual body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23). Jesus is the Savior of His body, the church (Eph. 5:23). These truths indicate why it is absolutely essential to seek the Lord’s church first for the saved are in the church of Christ.

What does it mean to seek first “the righteousness of God”? Romans 1:16-17 tells us that the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel of Christ which is the power of God to salvation. To seek first the righteousness of God is to place the priority in life in obeying and living by the direction of the teaching of Christ in the New Testament.

Let us place our priorities where they will do us the most good, both in this life and the one

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## NEWS AND NOTES

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Green Plain members*:** Paul Brandon Lori Brandon, Peggy Jarvis, Rex and Margaret Enoch, Will Ed Travis , Mary Crutchfield, Vickie and Kaitlyn Canter, Tina Wyatt, Joanne Barnes. Frank Towery, Maxine Pool, Nancy Meacham, Hayes Grady, Carolyn Bryars, Marjorie Grady, Mary Lowrie, Mary Vincent, Jesse Vincent, and Jim Fielder. Larry Enoch is home recovering from surgery.
- **Family and Friends:** Betty Pond, Naomi Pigg, Byron White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, Anna Arrant (Hospice House in Murray), Walter Bryars, Ann Workman, Mike and Dollie Kiser, Will and Nancy Winchester, Dean Carroll, Maryanne Stubblefield, Annie Lyons, Kenzie Murdock, Brandon Wiggins, Jim Hutson, Amy Lyons, Janice Canter, Maryanne Pedigrew and Dale Foster. If you know of those who need to be added or removed from our prayer list please write down their names and hand it to Jonnie.
- **Pantry items for January:** 6—Apple sauce; 13—Green Beans; 20—Green Peas; 27—Pinto Beans.
- Please remember our **snacks for the hospital program** and place your items in the baskets in the lobby.
- **PASS IT ON!** When you have finished reading this bulletin, why not pass it on to a loved one, friend or neighbor. Use this as a tool to spread the gospel. Or, pick up extra copies to hand or mail to others.
- **See our Facebook page** for announcements, updates and articles. Access to past editions of this bulletin are available on our website at <http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org>.
- **Mission Work:** Please continue to pray for the preachers this congregation is supporting in India and for Dale Foster, Ronnie Gootan, David Nance and Mike Kiser in their respective works.
- Watch **“A Bible Answer”** each Sunday morning at 8:00 am on WQWQ TV in Paducah, KY. This program is also available on their website at [abibleanswerstv.org](http://abibleanswerstv.org) and on GBN and YouTube.
- **January 2019 Anniversaries:** Carolyn & Walter Byars 1-27; **Birthdays:** Marjorie Grady 1-26; Ruthie Sales 1-10; Shane Smith 1-14; Karen Workman 1-18. If we have left anyone out please let us know.
- "I must do something" will always solve more problems than "Something must be done."
- "It is a sick society where babies are as disposable as diapers."



### BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION

**This Week:** *Where is Jonah mentioned in the Old Testament outside of the book of Jonah and what does it say Jonah did?*

**Last Week:** *What is significant about the cities of Admah and Zeboim?* These were two cities of the plain destroyed along with Sodom and Gomorra in the days of Abraham and Lot (Gen. 9:24-25; 10:19; Deut. 29:23; Hosea 11:18).



### LESSONS TODAY

**Sunday AM**  
**“The Challenge to Trust God”**

**Sunday PM**  
**“Examine Yourself”**

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to come. Let us always be seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. If

we do then we need not be anxious about either today or tomorrow.

## WHY DOESN'T GOD ANSWER MY PRAYERS?

Let us first look at some prayers in the Bible.

**Rebecca:** When her twin sons ~ **Jacob and Esau** ~ were about age 40 (Genesis 26:34), they had a terrible argument and Esau threatened to kill Jacob. Rebecca told Jacob to live with her brother a thousand miles away in a foreign country and "When your brother is no longer angry with you and forgets what you did to him, I'll send word for you to come back from there" (Genesis 27:45).

She never sent that word. Oh, how the parents of these twins must have prayed for their family to be reunited and for the twins to get along again. But it just didn't happen. Jacob stayed gone twenty long years (Genesis 31:38). Finally he went back to make up with Esau on his own. When he did, (Genesis 33:4), Esau took him to see their father Isaac (Genesis 35:27), but not their mother.

Rebecca had probably died believing that God had refused to answer her prayer for her sons. But he did answer her prayer. It just wasn't in her lifetime. The same is true with some of our own prayers. They're answered after we die.

**Joseph:** When Joseph was 17 years old (Genesis 37:2) he was sold by his brothers to a caravan headed for Egypt. There this teenager was sold again to be a forever slave in a foreign country with strange people, strange language, strange customs. He was bought by the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Joseph kept a good attitude and his owner was so impressed that he gave him a lot of responsibility. But things went from tolerable to terrible. His owner's wife falsely accused him of trying to rape her, so he was imprisoned. There his feet were put in shackles and his neck was put in irons (Psalm 105:17-22).

Did he become bitter and turn against God? No. He made the best of an extremely bad situation. Eventually he was trusted so much that the jailor let Joseph, the prisoner, run things for him (Genesis 39:22). When Joseph was 28 years old (Genesis 40:1 - 40:1) it looked like a personal servant of Pharaoh would be able to get him out of prison, but the servant forgot all about Joseph. How could God allow that to happen?

Finally, when Joseph was 30 years old (Genesis 41:46), Pharaoh personally released him from prison

and made him "prime minister" of the entire land (Genesis 41:41)

There are other examples of delayed answers: Abraham and his promised land, Abraham and his son that he did not have until he was 100 years old, the Jews who prayed for 400 years to be freed from their slavery.

### ANSWERED PRAYERS THAT LEAD TO HEARTACHE

Sometimes God does not give us what we want because it would bring us heartache. We may not see it, and the bad effects may not even occur during our lifetime. But God knows

**SAMSON:** A couple was childless, for the wife had been sterile for a long time. They prayed and prayed for a son. Finally God answered their prayer and they named their baby Samson.

But Samson brought heartache after heartache to his parents. First he demanded that they arrange a marriage to an atheist (Judges 14:2). But when he was taken advantage of at his wedding reception, he divorced her (Judges 14:20). Then he started going to prostitutes (Judges 16:1). Finally he fell in love with another atheist (Judges 16:4, 21) who then betrayed him. He was imprisoned his eyes gouged out (Judges 16:21) and finally died by suicide (Judges 16:30). His parents got their prayed-for baby, and also great heartache.

**THE JEWS:** The Israelites had been ruled by judges, but finally prayer that they could have kings instead so they could be like other nations around them (I Samuel 8:6-9). They got their king. But it led to disaster. It took only three generations for their kings to set up idols for them to worship (I Kings 11:9-10), and one more generation for the country to fall into civil war between their north and their south (I Kings 11:43-12:1). They had prayed for a king, got their wish, then wished they hadn't.

We may not know until heaven which prayers God did not answer because he knew they would lead to heartache.

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### 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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### WHAT WE PRAY FOR

What is it that we pray for anyway? Jesus said in Mathew 7:7, "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." Yet we must not forget what he said a few sentences before: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33). Are our prayers for our material desires? Will our prayers, if answered positively, advance the cause of Jesus' kingdom in the world?

Further, do we have trouble making a personal prayer last more than five minutes tops? Perhaps it is because we are praying for ourselves too much. How about making a prayer list? Pray for people in the newspaper ~ front-page crime or political stories or people in the births, marriages, & obituary columns. How about going through your church directory every day and praying for everyone in your congregation by name every day? How about getting a list of missionaries and praying for them every day?

How about praying for lost souls in your family, your fellow employees, your neighborhood? James said, "But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind" (James 1:6). Praying for souls can create stress if we keep watching for such prayers to be answered soon. But remember the story of Rebecca above? Perhaps souls you pray for will be saved, but after your lifetime.

Above all, remember this: God loves to answer prayer.

—[churchofchrist-cg-az.com/files/Prayer-Answer.htm](http://churchofchrist-cg-az.com/files/Prayer-Answer.htm)



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**GBNTV.ORG**

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### THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

**January 2019**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bobby Hall  
PRESIDE AT THE LORD'S TABLE  
AM: Mike Ernstberger & James Pigg  
Substitute: Jim Lowrie

ASSIST AT THE LORD'S TABLE:  
AM: Dave Thompson & Perry Jarvis  
Substitute: Chad Canter

#### Sunday PM

6—Mike  
13—James  
20—Mike  
27—James

#### OPENING PRAYER:

6—Bobby Hall  
13—Jonnie Hutchison  
20—Hayes Grady  
27—Jim Lowrie

#### CLOSING PRAYER:

6—Chad Canter  
13—Roy Wyatt  
20—Preston Barrett  
27—Dave Thompson

#### COUNT CONTRIBUTION:

Dave Thompson & Charles Enoch

#### COLLECT COMMUNION CUPS

London & Peyton

#### SONG LEADERS:

Sunday Morning: /Charles Enoch  
Sunday Evening: Perry Jarvis  
Wednesday: Mike Ernstberger  
Substitute: Chad Canter

#### USHER: Chad Canter

Lawn Care: N/A

If you are unable to serve, please  
contact Chad Canter at 270-873-7509

**Thank YOU For Serving!!**