



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 37

November 24, 2019

Number 46

## Schedule of Services

- **Sunday**  
Bible Classes  
10:00 AM  
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, 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

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS? *By Kevin Harrington*

On December 25th many people will wake up very early in the morning to rush down stairs and see what Santa has left under their tree. Santa, of course, is a secular tradition that pulls from multiple stories from around the world. Through the years, the big, jolly, gift-giving old man with a white beard became an icon for the holiday of Christmas. Besides Santa, there is one other person that people place a lot of value on this time of year: Jesus Christ. Many Christians believe that Jesus' birthday is December 25<sup>th</sup>. Is Christmas Day really Jesus' birthday? Should we celebrate Christmas as a remembrance of Jesus' birthday?

Let me give you some facts to think about:

1.No Biblical or non-biblical historical writings can tell us an accurate month, day, or time Jesus was born.

2.There are no mentions in the Bible or non-Biblical writings of birth celebrations.

3.The fact that shepherds were in the field watching their flock at the time of Jesus' birth ([Luke 2:7-8](#)) shows us that

December 25<sup>th</sup> is most likely nowhere close to Jesus' birthday. December is cold, rainy, and sometimes snowy. Shepherds would have not had their sheep grazing in the field in the middle of December.

4.Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem for the census at the time of Jesus' birth ([Luke 2:1-4](#)). Censuses were never taken in winter, when temperatures would often drop below freezing and the roads were in poor condition.

5.The apostles and early Christians never talked about, wrote about, or celebrated the birth of Jesus.

I think there is a reason that the birth of Jesus was never mentioned after the actual event occurred. The main focus of the New Testament church is not to praise a Savior that was born, but to praise a Savior that has been resurrected. Jesus never told us to remember or celebrate his birth, but He did command us to remember the Lord's Supper in connection with His death and resurrection ([Luke 22:19-20](#); [1 Cor. 11:23-26](#)). He knew His birth was far less important than

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## NEWS AND NOTES

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** . Remember Faye Travis, Peggy Jarvis, Rex and Margarete Enoch, Mary Crutchfield, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, and Larry Enoch.
- **Family and Friends:** Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, Walter Byars, Will Winchester, Jim Hutson, Janice Canter, Maryanne Pedigrew, Dale Foster, Andrea Phillips and Donald and Dorothy Cook.
- Our sympathy is extended to the family of Rita Kimbro who passed from this life this past week. Rita is the aunt of Laura Sales.
- **UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS:** Jane Morris will host an **Ornament Party** at her home on December 14th at 6:00 pm. All ladies are invited.
- **Pantry items for November: 3—Potatoes; 10—Chili; 17—Beets; 24—Creamed Corn. All items should be canned. Thanks to all for participating in this effort.**
- 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, Mike Kiser and Paul Jones in their respective works.
- Watch **“A Bible Answer”** each Sunday morning at 8:00 am on WQQW TV in Paducah, KY. This program is also available on their website at [abibleanswertv.org](http://abibleanswertv.org) and on GBN and YouTube.
- **November 2019 Anniversaries: 1st Ann & David Thompson; 13th Jane & Junior Morris; 17th Debbie & Mike Ernstberger; Birthdays: 15th Jonnie Hutchison; 23rd Vickie Cantor; 25th Margarete Enoch.** Please let us know if we have left anyone out.
- God does not grant faith apart from His revealed will in the Bible. Faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Without the knowledge of what the Bible teaches, genuine faith cannot exist.
- *Are you putting the Lord FIRST in your life? (Read Matthew 6:33).*



### BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION

**This Week: Who was Haggai?**

**last Week:** *What did God command the Israelites to do before He sent the last plague upon the Egyptians?*

**Answer:** He commanded them to celebrate the Passover Feast including putting the blood of a lamb on their door posts and lentils of their houses (Exodus 12:1-13;13:1ff).

### LESSONS TODAY

Sunday AM

*“The Consequences of Sin”*

Sunday PM

*“Walking As Christians”*

*“Preach the Word”*  
*2 Timothy 4:2*

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His death and resurrection.

As you celebrate Christmas ... with your friends and loved ones, take a few moments to consider these things. Christmas is a fun time to celebrate love, joy, and cheer between family and friends, but it's not a time to throw a party for Jesus. Instead, we remember Jesus every Sunday when we come together to partake of the communion ([Acts. 20:7](#)).

~ - <http://efoothill.org/resources/articles/2013/12/22/happy-birthday-jesus>

**Editor's Note:** No matter whether some believe that Christ is exalted by a religious celebration of Christmas or not, the fact remains that the Bible does not give divine authority for the church to observe "Christmas" as a religious holiday. May God help us to respect His silence knowing He authorizes by what He says, not by what He doesn't say.

## **THANKSGIVING** By Jonnie Hutchison

Thanksgiving "has been celebrated as a federal holiday every year since **1863**, when, during the American Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of 'Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens,' to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November." It was not until 1941 that an act of congress adopted Thanksgiving Day as a legal national holiday.

Thanksgiving is a time for family gatherings and sharing both fun and food. Of course, we all have definite reasons to be thankful to our God whether we acknowledge them or not. The Bible tells us that God makes the sun to shine on the evil and the good and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45). James wrote, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). Paul declared to the Athenians, "...He gives to all life, breath, and all things" (Acts 17:25). Yes, every person should be thankful to God.

For the Christian, who has been cleansed of sin by the precious blood of Jesus, every day is "Thanksgiving Day." Not only does God bless us with the material necessities of

life, He grants those who are "in Christ" all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). His faithful enjoy the "fruit of the spirit" - love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). He blesses us with "His peace that surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7), the avenue of prayer (1 John 5:14-15) and gives those who accept His offer of pardon the hope of eternal life (Titus 1:2). Only the faithful Christian can say along with the inspired Paul, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

It is sad indeed that so many will readily embrace the material blessings God makes available to everyone but choose to reject the spiritual blessings of God which are only available to those in Christ. We plead with each reader to recognize that the material gifts of God are only temporary, but the spiritual blessings will endure into eternity. The book of Psalms expresses the thankful attitude of heart that each of us should have toward God in the words, "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all gen-



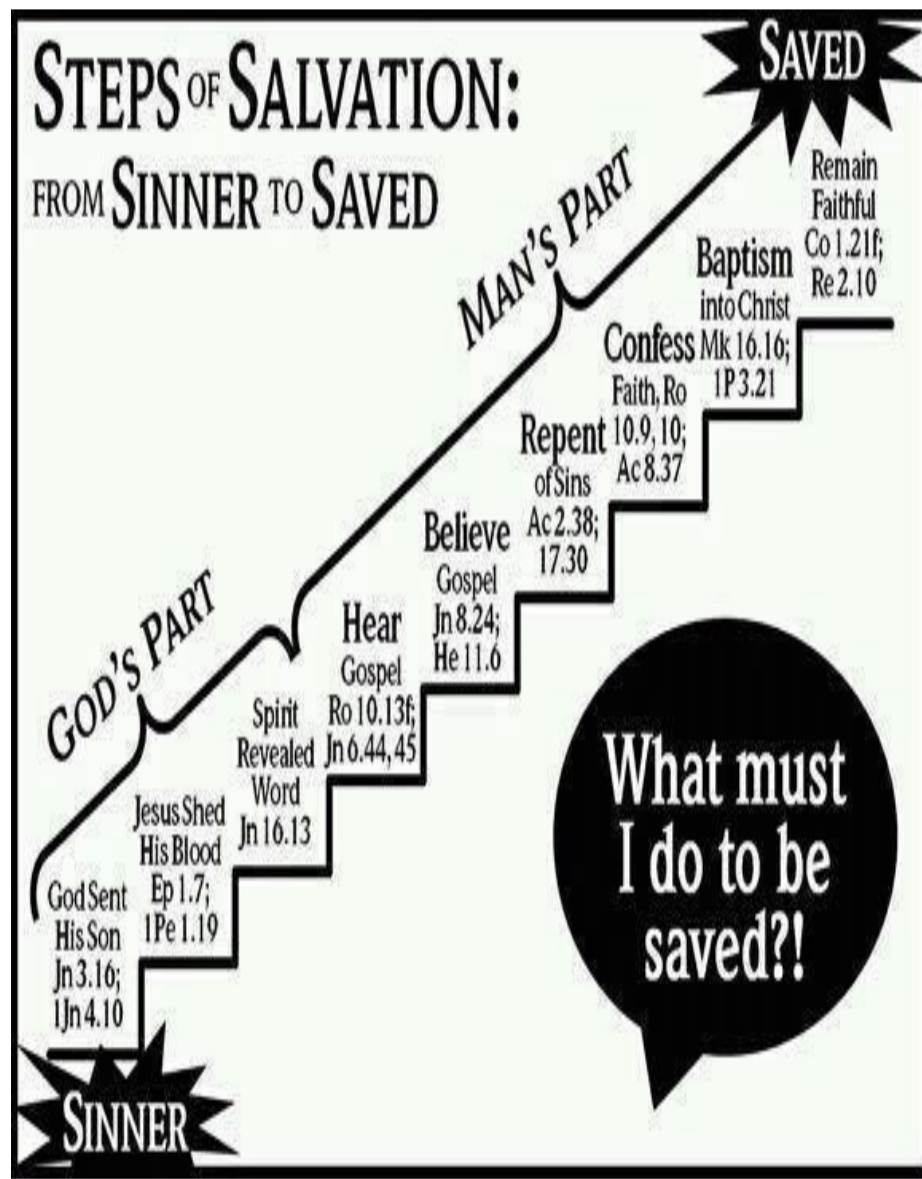
**COME VISIT WITH US**

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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erations” (Psalms 100:4-5). On this Thanksgiving Day and every day let us truly be thankful to our loving and merciful God!

—This article appeared in the Murray Ledger & Times 11-23-19. Other articles are available online at our website at [greenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org).



**THOSE TO SERVE**

**November 2019**

Announcements

Chad Canter

Preside at Lord's Table

Bobby Hall & Jim Lowrie

Substitute: James Pigg

Assist at Lord's Table

Roy Wyatt & Junior Morris

Substitute: Jesse Vincent

Preside at Lord's Table PM

3— Bobby Hall

1—Jim Lowrie

17—Bobby Hall

24—Jim Lowrie

Opening Prayer

3—James Pigg

10 Mike Ernstberger

17—Jonnie Hutchison

24 Preston Barrett

Closing Prayer

3—Jesse Vincent

10—Junior Morris

17—Dave Thompson

24—Perry Jarvis

Song Leaders

Sunday AM—Charles Enoch

Sunday PM—Perry Jarvis

Wednesday—Chad Canter

Substitute—Mike Ernstberger

Count Contribution

Roy and Junior

Collect Communion Cups

London & Peyton

Usher

Jesse

If unable to serve please call Chad Canter at 270-873-7509

*Thanks for Serving!*