



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 37

June 23, 2019

Number 24

## 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.  
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

## DON'T KEEP LOOKING BACK! *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Jesus said, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62). The figure Jesus uses is a concept most farmers will readily recognize as valid. You can’t plow a straight row in the field if you are looking back rather than forward. Looking back will cause one to lose his proper perspective and plow a crooked, rather than a straight row. Crooked rows make planting seed, maintaining and harvesting a crop extremely difficult.

When you became a Christian who “put your hand to the plow.” You begin your work in the vineyard of the Lord. Are you looking back? If so, you are plowing crooked rows and Jesus says you are not fit for the kingdom of God!

The inspired Peter compares Christians who turn back to the sinful pollutions of this world as a dog eating its own vomit and a once clean pig returning to wallowing in the mud, saying, “*he latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from*

*the holy commandment delivered to them*” (2 Peter 2:20-22). There is no excuse acceptable to God for turning away from His holy commandments. You cannot blame someone else if you choose to turn away from God. It is your choice. You, and you alone are responsible for making that choice and you are accountable for God for it.

God is a merciful God. He does not want you to perish but to come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9). He is more than willing to forgive His penitent children. Whatever the reason for your unfaithfulness, we pled with you to recognize that nothing or no one is worth the eternal loss of your soul. “*Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you*” (Acts 8:22). Remember the words of 1 John 1:9, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”

This side of eternity opportunity to come back to the Lord remains. Yet, at some point, the longsuffering of our loving God will come to an end. That is why

(Continued on page 3)

## NEWS AND NOTES

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Green Plain members:* Paul Brandon, Lori Brandon, Peggy Jarvis, Rex and Margaret Enoch, Will Ed and Faye Travis, Mary Crutchfield, Vickie and Kaitlyn Canter, Joanne Barnes, Frank Towery, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Mary Lowrie, Jim Fielder, Larry Enoch and Jesse and Mary Vincent.
- **Family and Friends:** Betty Pond, Naomi Pigg, Byron White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, Walter Bryars, Ann Workman, Mike and Dollie Kiser, Will and Nancy Winchester, Dean Carroll, Maryanne Stubblefield, Annie Lyons, Kenzie Murdock, Jim Hutson, Amy Lyons, Janice Canter, Maryanne Pedigrew, Dale Foster, Thomas Cooker, Don and Sherry Blackwell and Neal Parker.
- We rejoice with Juan Maldonato who was baptized into Christ this past Sunday night.
- This year's **VBS** is now history but thanks to all who participated it was a great success. A special thanks to Larry Enoch, Chad Canter, and Eli Sales for their leadership as well as to each of our teachers for their labor of love in teaching our classes. Thanks also to Luke Puckett and Glenn Head for teaching the adults. And thanks to our elders for their foresight in having VBS this year.
- **Pantry items for May:** 2—Apple Sauce; 9—Carrots; 16—Green Beans; 23—Canned Beets; 30—Baked 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, 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 [abibleanswerstv.org](http://abibleanswerstv.org) and on GBN and YouTube.
- **June 2019 Anniversaries:** Larry & Teresa Enoch—16th; James & Jan Pigg—17th; Peggy & Perry Jarvis—21st; Jim & Mary Lowrie—25th; **Birthdays:** LaDawn Hale—12th; Laura Sales—18th. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.



### BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION

**This Week:** What man, who was both king and priest, does the Hebrew writer compare to Jesus?

**Last Week:** How many brothers did Jesus have and what were their names? Jesus had four half-brothers—James, Joses, Simon, and Judas (Matthew 13:55).



### LESSONS TODAY

**Sunday AM**  
"The Name I Love  
to Hear"

**Sunday PM**  
"Called, Sanctified  
and Preserved"

(Continued from page 1)

we will keep pleading for your repentance and return and continue to cry out in love, "Don't keep looking back!" Instead, keep looking ever forward, toward the heavenly goal, to the promise of eternal life that

awaits at the end of our labors here. Fight the good fight of faith, finish the course set before you and keep the faith. The crown of life awaits but only for those who refuse to look back! (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

### **IMPORTANCE OF NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLY**

Why did we come together to worship Sunday? Was it because we had not seen each other since last Wednesday night or maybe even the previous Sunday? Was it because we were anxious to talk together about the winning ball game? Were we hoping for some comments on the new suit or outfit? Did we look forward to our weekly "after church" eating out together? Or was it the fellowship dinner after the worship services that was our main focus for coming? How often have we heard someone say that s/he was disappointed with the service because s/he did not get much out of it. Or brother so and so's prayer was too long. Or the babies were too noisy. Or the preacher preached too long. Or "they" did not sing any of the old favorite songs. All of these expectations and disappointments are the result of a misdirected concept of just actually what worship is and what we should expect from our worship to God.

To begin, true worship is toward God. Jesus said, "*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:23,24). We have totally missed the purpose of our worship to God when we come expecting to get something out of the worship. Our purpose should be to put into the worship: to render our worship toward God. There is only one spectator to our worship, and he is God! Now, that is not to say we will not get something out of our worship. We will. But that is not our purpose; and what we get out of it may not always be what we expect.

Just what is worship? The Greek concept of "worship" being "a kiss toward God" illustrates perfectly what our worship should be. For when we worship in spirit and truth, we render toward God our love, our adoration, our reverence. All is toward God. He is the spectator of our worship. We are all participants. It was He who ordered the how of our worship. Our worship should be to please Him and not ourselves. What we carry away from our worship will be the satisfaction of having rendered ourselves to Him in worship. Today we hear much about making changes in our worship to better suit the present generation. That whole movement has lost sight of the true purpose of worship and the object of our worship. To change any aspect of His worship to suit our own pleasures is to take away from God what is His and what He wanted in His worship. Jesus addressed this problem when he condemned the religious leaders of His day for the changes they had made in the worship which was to be toward God. He asked them, "*Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*" (Matthew 15:3). They were changing God's commandments to better suit their own "tradition." Because of these man made changes, their worship was no longer acceptable to God. In strong, straight forward words, Jesus said to them, "*Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*" (Matthew 15:7-9). In the parallel record in Mark 7, Jesus added: "*Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the*

(Continued on page 4)



### 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!

(Continued from page 3)

*commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition”* (Mark 7:7-9). They had allowed their emphasis on the trivial matters of their own standards of value to out weight the commandments of God. Their worship was now empty and meaningless. God was not getting anything out of their worship! They had changed their worship to suit their present generation. Does this sound familiar?

True worship, worship acceptable to God has always had to be in keeping with what God wanted out of the worship. There are many illustrations of this principle. Why was Cain’s worship not acceptable? (Genesis 4:3-5; Hebrews 11:4). Why were Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, burned with fire as they worshipped? (Leviticus 10:1,2). Why was Saul’s service toward God unacceptable in 1 Samuel 15? The answer to each of these and to all other such examples of vain worship is because changes were made in God’s commandments. Why we have not learned from these instances of vain worship is a puzzle. But we have not. At the least, there are those who want the worship services to be changed to be more directed at making the worshippers “feel good.” Others want the services to be more informal (come as you are), with music and other activities designed more to entertain the congregation. Some would add solos, choirs, or choruses to the worship to “enhance” the worship and to make it more appealing to the present generation. When we add solos and choirs or choruses or any other innovation not commanded of God to the worship, it is no longer “toward God” but toward ourselves. Our worship has become vain, pleasing men and not pleasing God. When we add man made instruments of music, solos and choruses, we are no longer singing and making melody in our hearts unto God. We are pleasing our selves, and God is not pleased. Again we ask: Why did we come together to worship Sunday?

—By James S. McDonald, Jr.

### THOSE TO SERVE

**June 2019**

#### Announcements

James Pigg

#### Preside at Lord’s Table

Chad Canter & Charles Enoch

Substitute: Mike Ernstberger

#### Assist at Lord’s Table

Jesse Vincent & Jackson Hale

Substitute: James Pigg

#### Preside at Lord’s Table PM

2—Chad

9—Perry

16—Chad

23—Perry

30—Chad

#### Opening Prayer

2—Mike Ernstberger

9—Jim Lowrie

16—Junior Morris

23—Hayes Grady

30—Perry Jarvis

#### Closing Prayer

52—Preston Barrett

9—James Pigg

16—Bobby Hall

23—Jonnie Hutchison

30—Dave Thompson

#### Song Leaders

Sunday AM—Perry Jarvis

Sunday PM—Mike Ernstberger

Wednesday—Jackson Hale

Substitute—Chad Canter

#### Count Contribution

Chad & Jesse

#### Collect Communion Cups

London & Peyton

#### Usher

Jesse Vincent

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