



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 34

March 6, 2016

Number 10

## 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
- James Pigg  
270-759-2145
- Chad Canter  
270-873-7509

## Deacons

- Larry Enoch
- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

## Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison  
Cell: 270-978-7569  
Home: 270-492-8091

## Mission Work

Dean Crutchfield—India  
Adam Evans—Tanzania

## 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)

## “THE ELECT” *By Jonnie Hutchison*

There is a major election scheduled for November of this year which no doubt will impact the future direction of our country. As of this writing the primary elections are taking place. These elections will determine who will be running for the president of our country in November which will largely determine whether our nation will go even further away from the intentions of the original founders of the United States of America. However, this article is not political in nature. It is not the aim of this writer to attempt to influence or change any person's vote. No, this article deals with another election which is much more important to our lives. Consider then God's election.

The inspired Peter wrote of the “pilgrims of the dispersion” describing them as being “*elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ*” (1 Peter 1:2). Paul wrote to Titus of the faith of God's “*elect*” (Titus 1:1). In listing the characteristics of the “new man” inspiration addressed the Christians in the city of Colossae in the words, “*Therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another,; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do*” (Colossians 3:12-13). What do we learn from these passages concerning God's election?

First, God does the electing in His election. Second, this election is gov-

erned by His foreknowledge. Third, God's election includes man's faith and obedience, the Spirit's sanctification and the blood of Jesus Christ. In other words, God's plan for man's salvation which is revealed in the Bible.

What has God, according to His foreknowledge (a term indicating “pre-arrangement”), elected? Has God arbitrarily elected certain individuals to be saved and others to be lost and the number is unchangeable as per the teaching of Calvinism? The answer is NO! What God has elected is that every person who obeys the gospel of Christ will receive the cleansing of sin by the blood of Jesus and that those who live faithful as Christians will inherit eternal life in heaven. That is what God has pre-arranged according to His omniscience. The Calvinist view of election is false for it takes away man's free will and makes God responsible for every lost soul which clearly contradicts His desire for the salvation of every person (1 Tim. 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9). In His great invitation Jesus excluded none when He said, “*Come unto me all you that labor and are heaven laden and I will give you rest*” (Matthew 11:28). Jesus did not offer His invitation to just the “elect” but rather to ALL who labor under the bondage of sin which is consistent with the commission He gave to His apostles to “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved: but he who does not believe will be condemned*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Have you been elected to salvation? Obey today while opportunity remains.

## NEWS AND NOTES

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** Mary Lowrie, Frank and Maxine Pool, Paul and Sue Brandon, Lori Brandon, Jim Fielder and Alex Barrett. Myrtle Towery is in Murray Hospital room 2419. **Nursing Homes:** Marguerite Stubblefield, , Nancy Meacham, and Binitta Irvan. **Family and Friends:** Patricia Lovett (Murray Hospital Room 2322), Harold Pond, Harry Lovett, Naomi Pigg, Norman Parker, Janie Suiter, Betty Jeffcoat, Stacy Hedrick, Virgil Hale (Spring Creek), Kim Thomas, Kenneth Mizell, Stacy Hedrick, Cynthia Kearbey, Will and Nancy Winchester, Eva Darnell, Jason Sales, Kenny Stubblefield, Todd Hill, Wallace Parker, Ruthie Parker,, Lonnell Parker, Kenneth Starks and Bryan White.
- The **March 2016 calendar** is available in the lobby. Please pick up your copy.
- **Pantry items for March:** 6th—Canned Chicken; 13th—Green Beans; 20th—Peanut Butter; 27th—Paper Towels.
- **LOCAL EVENTS.** Mark your calendar for our Spring Gospel Meeting which is scheduled for April 10-15, 2016 with Garland Robinson. Handouts for the meeting are available on the table in the front lobby.
- Please remember our **snacks for the hospital program** and place your items in the baskets in the lobby. Thanks for supporting this program.
- Continue to pray for Dean Crutchfield and the Lord's work in India and brother Adam Evans and the Lord's work in Tanzania. See the mission board for the latest reports from these respective works including letters from some of the Indian preachers supported by this congregation.
- **PASS IT ON!!** Please pass this bulletin on to a friend, relative, neighbor or fellow employee when you have finished reading it. Use it as a means to evangelize. Pick up some extra copies and distribute them to others.
- The Spring session of the **Green Plain School of Biblical Studies** begins this Monday, March 7th. There will be a study on the book of Genesis presented by Joey Glisson and a study on the book of Joshua presented by Jack Philips. The session will run for twelve weeks each consecutive Monday 7:00—9:00 pm. All are invited to attend and profit from these in-depth studies. Class will be conducted in the annex. Please bring snacks/finger foods.
- **AREA EVENTS:** Annual **West Kentucky Leadership Workshop** at the Briensburg church of Christ in Benton is scheduled for March 26th. The theme is *Building up the church through the Bible School*. There will be both men's and women's classes. See the bulletin board for details.
- If you have any announcements that should be included in the bulletin please submit them in writing before Thursday of each week. Thank you.



### RESEARCH QUESTION

**What does James say we should say when we make our future plans?**

**Last Week** In the New Jerusalem where are the names of the twelve tribes written?

**Answer:** On the twelve gates (Rev. 21:12)

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT**

**greenplainchurchofchrist.org**

(Scan Image with your QR coder Reader to go to website)



## WHAT ABOUT CHURCH GROWTH? *By Mike Riley*

Almost every religious journal carries an article about church growth. Seminars are conducted about it. Experts on church growth have become as numerous as fleas on a dog. There are many misconceptions about church growth as well as mistakes as to what real growth is. Many err in regard to what it takes for a congregation to grow.

### The Amount Of Contribution

The general consensus seems to be that if the contribution is above average or exceeding the budget, it is an indication of church growth. While it is true that if a church is to grow properly each member must give liberally and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 8:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7), a big contribution is not the determining factor in church growth. Some "big givers" in the church are such because the preacher doesn't "step on their toes". Should he begin to "crack down" on their sins, they cut down on their contribution. A church is not growing much if an above average contribution depends on sanctioning sin.

### The Incorrect Assessment Of Numbers

Another false measurement of church growth is an incorrect assessment of numbers. A mere shift of members from one place to another is no growth at all. The Lord's instruction is "Go make disciples" (Matthew 28:18 – ESV) rather than "compete for what you already have". New carpet, air conditioning, comfortable pews, or size and beauty of a building do not determine growth. Millions of dol-

lars have been spent on the concept that such are indications of church growth.

### Indications Of Real Growth

What then are indications of real growth? Let's ask ourselves, how God conscious are the members? Do they put Him first in their lives? (Matthew 6:33). Are they seeking to present His image in daily conduct? (2 Corinthians 3:18; James 1:23). How do the members treat one another? Do they "rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep"? (Romans 12:15). What about indications of concern for the needy? (James 2:14-18; 1 John 3:17-18). Is there an earnest desire that the lost hear the gospel? If members are faithful in true evangelism and real benevolence as they should be, church growth will take care of itself, all the church growth seminars being conducted notwithstanding.

### Conclusion

Most members say they want the church to grow. But church growth is a lot like the weather – everybody talks about it, but no one does much about it. Ask yourself, how long has it been since I invited a non-Christian to attend a service and hear the gospel preached? It might be surprising how many people in your city or community have never been personally invited to attend the services of the Lord's church. What are you (and I) **doing** to help the church grow?

—GEWatkins.net

## ARE YOU SURE ABOUT HELL? *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Do you believe in the existence of hell? Do you believe that those who are lost in sin will exist there for eternity? It is true that a great many people reject the very idea of a devil's hell. However, if one believes the Bible he must accept that not only does hell exist, but the unforgiven sinner will exist in hell for eternity. So, are you sure hell does not exist?

Jesus was sure that hell exists? He warned, "*And do not fear those who kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*" (Matthew 10:28). To the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees of His day, Jesus said, "*Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?*" (Matthew 23:33). This is not all that Jesus said about hell. However, these two passages are sufficient to show that He was sure that hell exists and warned others about it.

Simply denying the existence of hell does not change the fact of it. To deny its existence is to contradict the Only Begotten Son of God!

If you are sure in your own mind that hell does not exist then where is your proof? What warrants that conclusion? What has convinced you that hell is not a reality? Some argue that hell does not exist based upon their rejection of the existence of God. Where is your proof that God does not exist? Can you be absolutely certain, beyond any doubt that He does not? If so, how? What of the precision and order of the universe? How do you explain the existence of morality in man? Have you formed your conclusion only after examining all the evidence or do you reject God and hell without an examination?

It's easy to reject the existence of hell. It's a completely different thing to be sure it does not exist. What does the evidence tell you? Are you sure about hell?

**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.

A warm and friendly welcome awaits!



## Home Bible Study

*Please enroll me in a free Bible Study*

\_\_\_ "Back to the Bible" Home Bible Study (conducted by our teachers in your home or at our building)

\_\_\_ Free Bible Correspondence Course through the mail. (all postage paid)

\_\_\_ DVD—Searching for Truth (mailed to your home).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

- Clip and mail to: Green Plain Church of Christ—3980 Murray Paris Road- Hazel, KY 4204.9

## Green Plain School of Biblical Studies March 7—May 30, 2016

Each Consecutive Monday

7:00—9:00 pm

Studies on the books of  
Genesis & Joshua

### THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE March 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS: James Pigg

PRESIDE AT THE LORD'S TABLE

AM: Larry Enoch & Perry Jarvis

Substitute: Mike Ernstberger

ASSIST AT THE LORD'S TABLE:

AM: Chad Canter & Shaun Fuqua

Substitute: Dave Thompson

Sunday PM

3-6—Perry Jarvis

3-13—Chad Canter

3-20—Perry Jarvis

3-27—Chad Canter

OPENING PRAYER:

3-6—Mike Ernstberger

3-13—Jim Lowrie

3-20—John Sales

3-27—Hayes Grady

CLOSING PRAYER:

3-6—Preston Barrett

3-13—James Pigg

3-20—Bobby Hall

3-27—Jesse Vincent

COUNT CONTRIBUTION:

Chad Canter & Shaun Fuqua

COLLECT COMMUNION CUPS

Katelyn & London

SONG LEADERS:

Sunday Morning: Charles Enoch

Sunday Evening: Larry Enoch

Wednesday: Cody Canter

Substitute: Mike Ernstberger

GREETERS: Jesse & Mary Vincent

USHER: Jesse Vincent

Greet the Elder: James Pigg

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

**Thank YOU For Serving!!**