



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

January 14, 2024

Number 2

Schedule of Services

Sunday

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:45 am
and 2:00 pm
- Wednesday Bible
Study 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

- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison
Cell: 270-978-7569

Supporting Works

India—Dale Foster, David
Nance, & Ronnie Gootam;
Hatti/Cuba: Arnold Gerson

Location

- Green Plain Church of Christ
3980 Murray Paris Road
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone: (270) 492-8206
- greenplaincoc@gmail.com
- greenplainchurchofchrist.org

REACH FOR HOLINESS BEFORE HAPPINESS—By A.W. Tozer

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).

HOLINESS IS A HIGHER PRIORITY THAN HAPPINESS. It should rank higher in our scale of values than happiness, and maintaining its presence in our lives should be a matter of more pressing concern. The pursuit of holiness should be what we’re known for.

To say that anything is more important than happiness sounds absurd to our modern ears, of course. The very idea flies in the face of popular philosophy. Even when it comes to religious philosophy, most people nowadays take it as their basic premise that God “wants us to be happy.” We even use that benchmark to decide what God’s will is in the first place. Faced with various interpretations of scriptural teaching, we choose the one that we think would make us the happiest. And if someone challenges the correctness of our decision, our reply is often predictable:

“Well, I just can’t believe that God wouldn’t want me to be happy.”

But while the “pursuit of happiness” may be a social and political priority, it does not rank at the top of any scriptural list of criteria by which our conduct is to be decided. Although long-term joy, properly defined, was His objective (Hebrews 12:1-2), Jesus often chose the difficult over the easy, and the painful over the pleasant: *“Not My will, but Yours, be done”* (Luke 22:42).

None of this is meant to imply that happiness is unimportant. It certainly is important, to some extent. But to whatever extent happiness matters, the way to achieve it is not to make it the main objective in life, as many people do. Happiness comes mostly to those who are willing to be unhappy, if need be, while they work on goals of greater significance. God, our Creator, is a better manager of our happiness than we are, and in the long run, we’ll be happier if we seek Him

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Marie Wyatt and Jim and Mary Lowrie.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Tommy Boggess, Kim Burrows, Lucetria Hutchison, and Ted Clark.

OUR SYMPATH is extended to the family of Melissa Lovett who passed from this life last week. Please keep Jerry and Laura and all the Lovett and Sales families in your prayers.

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. Send your name and complete mailing address and phone number to Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD Hazel, KY 42049 or email your request to greenplaincoc@gmail.com.

HOME BIBLE STUDY; Request a **FREE** home Bible study—“Back to the Bible” for anyone who is interested in gaining more knowledge of the Bible. Contact us to set up a time for our teachers to come into your home or meet at our building to begin this study.

PANTRY ITEMS January 2024: 7—Peanut Butter; 14-Jelly or Jam; 21-Tooth Paste; 28-Toothbrushes. All items must be **non-perishable or canned**.

January 2024; Anniversaries: None **Birthdays:** 18-Karen Elkins; 28-Marjorie Grady.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREEN PLAIN: *Spring 2024 School of Biblical Studies* each Monday, March 4—April 29. Romans-Josh Manning and 2 Corinthians –Jack Phillips. The time will be 7:00 to 9:00 pm. *Spring Gospel Meeting* April 7-11 with Bradley Smith preacher for the Hickory Grove church of Christ. Mark you calendars and pray for these efforts!

“As long as there is life and ability, it is not too late for penitent believers in Christ to confess their faith and be immersed in water (baptized) for the remission of sins and be added by the Lord to His church.” (Read Acts 2:36-47).

THSE TO SERVE January 2024

Announcements: James Pigg

Table AM: Bobby Hall & Mike Ernstberger

Table PM: 7-Chad; 14-Bobby; 21-Chad; 28-Bobby

Opening Prayer AM: 7-Jonnie; 14-Perry; 21-James; 28-Jim L

Closing Prayer AM: 7-Roy; 14-Dave; 21-Brent; 28-Jesse

Song Leaders: AM-Perry; PM-Mike; Wed-Chad

Count Contribution: Bobby & Mike

If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter



WATCH AND HEAR THE GOSPEL 24/7

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first and let Him decide how much happiness we can handle without forgetting Him. If we had to, we could survive the loss of any amount of happiness, but no one can survive the absence of holiness. So that's the thing most worth pursuing . . . and if we don't do that, then death will be our doom.

“No man should desire to be happy who is not at the same time holy. He should spend his efforts in seeking to know and do the will of God, leaving to Christ the matter of how happy he shall be”

—[Reach for Holiness Before Happiness - Bulletin articles](#) < [church of Christ at Greenwood](#)

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST By Jonnie Hutchison

“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!” Many who will read this article have sung these words time and time again through the years. They express the Bible's clear teaching that without contact with the blood of Jesus there is no forgiveness of sin and thus no hope of heaven.

Blood has always been a part of God's plan for man's salvation. In the Old Testament, under the Law of Moses, the blood of animals was required in the sacrifices made for the sins of the people of Israel. The Bible speaks of this in Hebrews 9:18-22, *“Therefore not even the first covenant was dedicated without **blood**. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the **blood of calves and goats**, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the **blood** of the covenant which God has commanded you.” 21 Then likewise he sprinkled with **blood** both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with **blood**, and without shedding of blood there is no remission”* NKJV. According to the Bible, the blood of animals could not actually take away sin—*“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away*

sin” (Hebrews 10:4). The sacrifice of animals under the law and the shedding of their blood was only a figure of the one great sacrifice of Jesus Christ as He shed His blood for the sins of the world including the sins of those who lived before the cross (See Hebrews 9:11-15).

Ephesians 1:7 reads *“In Him [Christ] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”* Yes, only the blood of Jesus washes away sin. Since Jesus shed His blood over 2000 years ago then how is it possible for one to be cleansed of his/her sins by that blood? Obviously there is no way to physically contact the blood of Christ. Yet, God has made provision that we may spiritually be cleansed of our sins by His blood. Notice that the above passage teaches that “redemption through His blood” - the “forgiveness of sins” is described as being “In Him.” It is when one gets into Christ that he/she is granted redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. **IN CHRIST** is the only spiritual location where the blood of Jesus is available.

The Bible reveals plainly how one gets **into Christ** and thus contacts His blood which washes away sin. Those who believe, repent and confess faith in Christ may be baptized (immersed in water) **into Christ**. *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **bap-***

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tized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through **baptism into death**, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4). To be baptized into the death of Jesus is vital in reaching His blood for one simple reason—Jesus shed His blood in His death. When the soldiers came to break the legs of Jesus as He hung on the cross to hasten His death, as was their custom, they found Jesus already dead. The Bible tells us, “*But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out*” (John 19:33-34). Since Jesus shed His blood in His death it follows that to reach His death is equivalent to reaching His blood. Go back and read Romans 6:3-4 again. Does it not tell us that one reaches the death of Jesus in baptism? Since one reaches the death of Jesus in baptism that is also the point where one reaches the blood of Jesus. Since no one can be forgiven of sin except by the blood of Jesus then water baptism is absolutely essential before one can be saved. Baptism then stands between the sinner and salvation for without the blood of Jesus there is no remission of sins.

Dear reader, if baptism is unnecessary to your salvation then so is the death of Christ, the blood of Christ and being “in Christ.” Why? Because the Bible teaches that one reaches the death of Jesus and thus His shed blood when one obeys the Lord’s command to be baptized. In addition, the Bible teaches that baptism is that act of obedience which places one “**in Christ**” where salvation is found. “*For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ*” (Galatians 3:27). “*Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they may obtain the **salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory***” (2 Timothy 2:10).

“*What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!*” May we assist you as a penitent, confessing believer in submitting to the Lord’s command to be baptized into the death of Christ there to reach His cleansing blood so that you may receive forgiveness of your sins and the hope of eternal life?

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!

Bible Study Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45

“Are You Practicing the Religion of Safety?”

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 2:00 Mike Ernstberger

Wednesday 7:00 pm Study of Premillennialism



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts