



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

January 22, 2023

Number 3

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

- Bible Classes 10 am
- Worship 10:45 am  
and 6:00 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;  
MSOP—Eli Sales  
BIM—Duston Pool.  
Hatti/Cuba: Arnold Gerson

### Location

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

## ARE GOD AND THE BIBLE RELEVANT? By Jonnie Hutchison

The number of people who claim to no longer believe in the God of the Bible is constantly on the increase. Self-proclaimed atheists are becoming even more militant in their efforts to “convert” believers into their ranks. The internet contains numerous sites designed to cast doubt on the existence of God and the credibility of the Bible. Many colleges and universities have become platforms for the advancement of organic evolution and secular humanism, both of which deny the need for God.

According to both Gallup and PEW polls, about ten percent of Americans claim not to believe in God. Some have suggested this number to be much higher than actually reported because of the stigma associated with expressing ones unbelief in God in our society. One thing is certain, however, and that is that many who claim to believe in God do not live their lives as if God does exist. That is evident in the number who have embraced so many immoral practices which the God of the Bible clearly condemns (Romans 1:18-31; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). It is also apparent in the religious division that is so prevalent but which the God of the Bible also condemns (John 17:20-23; 1 Corinthians 1:10). Yes, many, even those who claim to

believe in God and the Bible, are living their lives as if God and the Bible are irrelevant. This sad state of affairs breaks the heart of our loving God who “*who would have all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth*” (1 Timothy 2:4).

God and the Bible are absolutely relevant in a world where evil abounds. This world is afflicted with a spiritual disease called “sin” and the only cure is the forgiveness God offers through the blood of Jesus Christ. How many of this world’s current problems would be solved if people would but follow the teachings of the Bible? How many wars would be prevented? How much corruption would cease? How many of those addicted to drugs and alcohol would find help and guidance to break their habits? How many would have their needs supplied and their lives improved? How many marriages would be saved? The truth and principles found in the pages of the Bible will not only save precious souls from the eternal consequences of sin, but will improve their personal lives in the present. If you do not believe that following God and the Bible can change your life for the better then consider the following found in 1 Corinthians 6:9

(Continued on page 3)

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Green Plain members:* Peggy Jarvis Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Mary Lowrie, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Junior Morris. And Mary Vincent.

**Family and Friends:** Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Joel White, Nat Evans, Larry and Rose Wyatt. Bonnie Byerly, Kenny Arrington, Tommy Boggess and Tish Clarke. Please continue to pray for our brethren in Ukraine. Remember those this congregation is supporting in India.

**NEW DIRECTORY:** We are in the process of making a new picture directory of all members of the church here at Green Plain. Please check your information on the table in the lobby and make any needed corrections. If you haven't had your picture taken, please do so following services today at the front of the auditorium. We hope to have the directory finished in February. Thanks for your cooperation.

**PANTRY ITEMS January 2023:** 1—Carrots; 8—Canned Meats; 15—Green Peas; 22—Paper Towels; 29—Black-eyed Peas.

**January 2023; Anniversaries:** None. **Birthdays:** 18—Karen Elkins; 26—Marjorie Grady. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

**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](mailto:greenplaincoc@gmail.com). You may also enroll on our website.: [greenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org).

**HOME BIBLE STUDY;** We offer a FREE in-home Bible study entitled "Back to the Bible" for anyone who is interested in gaining more knowledge of the Bible. Simply contact us to schedule a time for your study.

**THOSE TO SERVE JANUARY 2023**

Announcements—James Pigg  
Preside at Lord's Table—Bobby & Mike  
Lord's Table PM: 1-Bobby; 8-Mike; 15-Bobby; 22-Mike;  
29-Bobby

**Opening Prayer AM**

1-Jonnie; 8-Chad; 15-James; 22-Jim L.; 29-Mike

**Closing Prayer AM**

1-Perry; 8-Dave; 15-Junior; 22-Roy; 29-Jesse

**Song Leaders**

AM— Perry; PM-Mike; Wed-Chad

Count Contribution: Bobby & Mike



**THE GOSPEL 24/7**  
**GBNTV.ORG**

(Continued from page 1)

-11: *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”* The sins named in this passage are prevalent in our society but any person engaged in these activities has it within his or her ability to cease practicing them. By being washed in the blood of Jesus through obedience to the gospel one can stand justified before God, living his or her life in preparation for heaven. No one is forced to live a life of sin. Every person can change direction in life by accepting the salvation that is in Jesus

Christ. Is God and the Bible relevant today? Without question! Without God and the Bible precious souls will continue to live ultimately worthless lives, lives wasted in sin, lives leading to eternal punishment in hell (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).

May God help each of us to recognize just how important and relevant God and the Bible are in our present lives and for our future existence. Titus 2:11-14 reads, *“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,<sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,<sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,<sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”*

## DOES SAYING “GOD KNOWS MY HEART” EXCUSE SIN?

When confronted with their sins, it’s not uncommon to hear people say, “Yeah, but God knows my heart.” Does this mean, “What I’m doing might be wrong, but in my heart, I’m a good person. God knows that. So I don’t think He will hold me accountable for my actions.”? These folks obviously believe in God and believe in sin, but they seem to believe that having a “good heart” is justification for their sin. God says that’s not true.

**Your Sins Proceed from Your Heart.** According to Jesus, no one sins in spite of having a clean heart. On the contrary, our sins are evidence of the impurity of our heart. Jesus said, “What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart...out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander” (Matthew 15:18-19). In other words, you can’t use profanity and – when someone calls you on it – say, “Well, God knows my heart.” Your heart is the place from which that profanity came forth. If you’re living

with someone you’re not married to, the excuse that God knows your heart won’t cut it. Sexual immorality is the product of an unclean heart. You don’t sin in spite of having a clean heart; you sin because there is something wrong in your heart.

**Your Heart is Hidden from Man, but Not from God.** The realization that “God knows our heart” should humble us to repent, not embolden us to continue in sin. You can hide your heart from the world. You can appear righteous and godly to others, even if your heart is rotten to the core, but God knows the truth. He sees your heart. The Pharisees wanted people to believe they were righteous, when really many were evil. What they were was not evident to the people because the people couldn’t see their hearts, but God could. Jesus said they were like cups that were clean on the outside, but filthy on the inside (Matthew 23:25-26). He said they were like, “whitewashed tombs, which outward-

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

ly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness" (Matthew 23:27). Jesus could see what others could not. He could see their hearts.

**No Matter How Bad Your Life Is, Your Heart is Worse.** All of this should teach us that our heart is not better than our life, it is almost always worse. There are things lurking in the darkness of our hearts that have not yet manifested themselves outwardly. But God knows all dirty little secrets. He knows our greed, our lust, our selfishness, our pride, and our bitterness. He knows our life as well. He knows the things we've said, the people we've hurt, the places we've gone, and the good deeds we've failed to do. He knows all of it.

**The Cross, Not Your Heart, Is Where You'll Find Justification.** When I think about the fact that God knows my heart, it drives me to my knees and makes me pray, as David did: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin...Create in me a clean

heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit" (Psalm 51:1-2,10-12). The realization that God knows my heart makes me realize what a wretch I am. It makes me so thankful for the blood of Jesus. It makes me look – not to my heart for justification – but to the cross for justification. I have sinned outwardly and I have sinned inwardly. The only hope I have is Jesus!

So I beg you to realize that God will hold you accountable for the sins of your mouth, the sins of your hands, and the sins of your heart unless you repent and allow Him to wash you clean in the blood of Jesus Christ: *"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you"* (James 4:8-10).

—[PBcoC-Bulletin-20210214-4-website-Does-Saying-God-Knows-My-Heart-Excuse-Sin.pdf](#) ([pottsborchurchofchrist.org](http://pottsborchurchofchrist.org))

### 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



**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM**  
**"The Book of Acts"**

**SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45**  
**"Give Me Rest"**

**SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 6:00**  
**"Healing at a Pool"**  
**John 5:1-18**

**WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM**  
**"A Study of the Book of Matthew"**



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts