



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 40

January 23, 2022

Number 4

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

- Larry Enoch
- 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

WHICH CHURCH? BY JONNIE HUTCHISON

Of all the different “churches” that exist today, which is the church one reads about in the Bible? Does that church exist in our world today? Some claim that all the various religious groups and denominational churches that exist in our world today and which claim allegiance to Jesus Christ constitute the New Testament church. Is that true?

Jesus prayed that all of those who would believe in Him through the words of the apostles would be **ONE** as He and the Father are **ONE** (John 17:20-21). It should be obvious that the Son and the Father do not believe, teach or practice that which conflicts with one another. The Father and the Son are **ONE** in all of these areas. They are in perfect harmony. There is no division between the Father and the Son.

What about the various “churches” and religious denominations? Are they truly **ONE** in belief, teaching and practice? Obviously not. Baptist teaching does not agree one hundred percent with the teaching of Roman Catholicism. The teaching of the Jehovah’s Witnesses does not agree one hundred percent with that of

the Methodist denomination. None of these groups believe, teach and practice exactly the same thing. They wear different names, teach conflicting doctrines and embrace different creeds, catechisms and church manuals. The division is readily discernable and the oneness for which Jesus prayed is conspicuously absent.

In the midst of all of this division, how does one find the church we read about in our New Testaments? There is only one way and that is to compare it with the identifying marks of the original church that are clearly revealed in the New Testament.

The New Testament church (the one we read about in the Bible) had its beginning in the city of Jerusalem as prophesied in the Old Testament (Isa. 2:1-4; Acts 2). Before Acts 2 the church is spoken of only in the future tense (Matthew 16:18-19) but in Acts 2 and throughout the rest of the New Testament the church is spoken of in the present tense. Any “church” not established in Jerusalem in the first century cannot be the church one reads about in the Bible.

(Continued on page 3)

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Larry Enoch, Mary and Jim Lowrie, Margorie and Hayes Grady, and Jesse and Mary Vincent. Marie Wyatt is recovering from Covid. Remember Vickie Canter as she continues to undergo additional treatments

Family and Friends: Teresa Tacker, Bryan White, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Joel White, Nat and Rita Evans and Larry and Rose Wyatt.

- **COVID UPDATE:** The elders have requested that we continue to wear masks, social distance, avoid handshakes & hugs and do what we can to diminish the possibility of spreading Covid. As we all know this virus continues to plague our society and we who are Christians are not immune. I know we are all thankful that we can continue to assemble for Bible classes and worship. Pray for those of our number who have contacted this virus.
- **PANTRY ITEMS January 2022:** 2—Peaches; 9—Peanut Butter; 16—Carrots; 23—Peas; 30—Canned Potatoes. Please bring any additional items you wish for the “blessing box” which is located next to the breezeway on the north side of the building.
- **January 2022 Anniversaries:** None. **Birthdays:** 14—Shane Smith; 18—Karen (Hall) 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. You may also enroll on our website.: greenplainchurchofchrist.org

THOSE TO SERVE JANUARY 2021

Announcements: Mike Ernstberger

Preside at Lord’s Table AM: Larry & Junior

Preside at Lord’s Table PM: 2—Larry; 9—Bobby;
16—Larry; 23—Bobby; 30—Larry

Opening Prayer AM

2—Jonnie; 9—Chad; 16—James; 23—Jim;
30—Mike

Closing Prayer PM

2—Jesse; 9—David; 16—Roy; 23—Bobby; 30—Perry

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

Count Contribution: Larry & James

Usher: Chad

LESSONS TODAY

Bible Study-10 AM
The Book of Acts

Worship

10:45 am— *“The Wrath of God”*

6 pm— *“My ‘Achan’ Heart”*

Wednesday Bible Class
A Study of 1 John

7:00 PM

(Continued from page 1)

The New Testament church was promised and built by Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18-19). He is the Head of His church and it is His spiritual body (Eph. 1:22-23). Any "church" built by someone other than Jesus or that claims a "head" other than or in addition to Jesus Christ cannot be the original New Testament church.

The New Testament church was not designated by a human name nor was its members called anything other than disciples and Christians (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). That original church is called in the New Testament "the church of God" (1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:13) and "churches of Christ" (Rom. 16:16) both phrases indicating ownership. Any church that wears a name other than the name of God or Christ cannot be the original New Testament church. Any church whose members are designated by a denominational name or doctrine cannot be the original New Testament church.

The worship of the New Testament church occurred on the first day of the week as the church, in any given locality, assembled together (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). That worship consisted of partaking of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of the Lord's death (Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30), singing praise to God (Eph. 5:19), giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2), praying (1 Tim. 2:8), and parch-

ing the Word (Acts 20:7; 1 Tim. 4:2). No additional acts of worship are specified nor authorized in the New Testament. Any church that adds to these items of worship or leaves any of them out or substitutes something else in their place cannot be the original New Testament church.

In the first century the saved were added by the Lord to His church upon loving submission to the commands of the Lord. They did not "join the church" nor were they voted in by the membership. In Acts 2 Peter and the other apostles preached the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Three thousand responded to the gospel message they heard by asking, "*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*" Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, "*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" (Acts 2:38). Some three thousand obeyed these commands and were added by the Lord to His church (Acts 2:41, 47). Any "church" that teaches any other terms of salvation cannot be the New Testament church.

Which church today is the New Testament church? The church that follows the exact pattern or the original church as revealed in the New Testament of Jesus Christ. May we help you find the original church of Christ?

THE YEAR AHEAD *By Kerry Duke*

"*For who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?*" (Ecclesiastes 6:12).

An issue of Time magazine almost thirty years ago gave examples of men who tried to do what man cannot do—predict the future. Here are some of these predictions made in the 1900's as listed in Time, Fall, 1992:

- Henry Adams, considered to be one of America's foremost thinkers, said in 1903,

"My figures coincide in setting 1950 as the year that the world must smash."

- In 1901, two years before Kitty Hawk, Wilbur Wright told his brother Orville that man would not fly for another 50 years.

- Not long before the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Admiral William Leary told Harry Truman, "This is the biggest

(Continued on page 4)



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(Continued from page 3)

fool thing we have ever done...the bomb will never go off.”

- Some even claimed that scientists would create machines that would be able to read our minds!

Here we are years later feeling the same curiosity and anxiety about the future. This time, however, the uncertainty is more far-reaching. Our world has changed dramatically. The year 2020 was like an earthquake and every month since has been like an aftershock. Our laws, our economy, our population and our entire culture is changing so rapidly that it is hard to make plans for anything.

There is only one way to have peace and clarity in a world that has been turned upside down: hold to God's unchanging hand and trust in His all-seeing eye. Remember that the Lord said, *“I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done”* (Isa. 46:9-10). God has always known everything in the future. Nothing surprises Him. He saw the Civil War, the Great Depression and COVID coming long before they broke into history. He knows every detail of the results of each crisis and works all things for the good of His

people (Rom 8:28). We will never be able to see what God sees, but that should not keep us from trusting that He does.

The Bible teaches us not to brag about the future or worry about it. Solomon said, *“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth”* (Prov. 27:1). Jesus said, *“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”* (Matt. 6:34). We need faith in these turbulent times to keep us from going to either extreme.

The great book of Ecclesiastes gives us wisdom we cannot find anywhere else. It tells us, *“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun”* (Ecc. 1:9). It reminds us of the cycles and phases of life: *“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven”* (Ecc; 3:1). One of the best things Christians can do these days is turn off the television, leave social media alone, read the book of Ecclesiastes, and perhaps sing the chorus, of “God Holds the Future in His Hands.”

-- Via St. Peter's Proclaimer
 St. Peters, MO.



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