



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

January 28, 2024

Number 4

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

IT IS NOT TOO LATE *By Jonnie Hutchison*

“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others” (Eph 2:1-3).

These words were written to Christians. They explain the spiritual condition of those who were once lost in sin, and separated from God. Every accountable person has been in this condition, and, sadly, many are even now continuing in their “trespasses and sins.” They have practiced sin for so long that it has become habitual and thus, they are described as “children of wrath.” Can such a person change?

Some believe that the sins they have committed are so heinous and abundant that God would never forgive them. They may say, “It’s too late for me to make any changes to the way I live.” Those of whom Paul wrote

had “once walked “ as the world walks, following the “prince of the power of the air” (the devil) embracing the “spirit of disobedience.” Paul included himself when he said, “we all *once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind,....*” Notice the use of the past tense in these descriptions. Though these people had been lost in their sins and trespasses, Paul wrote in the very first verse, “*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins*” indicating they were no longer dead in their sins, but spiritually alive, no longer engaging in the sins which had **once** separated them from God. The long practice of sin was behind them. They were no longer the “children of wrath” but now they were the “children of God.”

Dear reader, there is no sin so great or so long practiced that the blood of Jesus cannot cover or that God will not forgive if one is willing to turn from it in obedience to His will.

No, it’s not too late for you make the changes in your life that

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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, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, and Ted Clark.

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

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRECSPONDENCE 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.

January 2024; Anniversaries: None **Birthdays:** 18-Karen Elkins; 28-Marjorie Grady. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT GREEN PLAIN:

⇒ **Spring 2024 School of Biblical Studies** each Monday, March 4—April 29. Classes: Romans Part 2-Josh Manning and 2 Corinthians Part 2—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 theses efforts!

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

GBNTV.ORG

GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK

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will lead to your eternal salvation. As long as there is within you the breath of life and the ability to reason and make decisions, it is not too late to obey God or, as an erring Christian, to come back home!

Consider these words from 1 Cor 6:9-11. *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idola-*

*ters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **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.”*

No, IT IS NOT TOO LATE! You CAN change.! You can be saved!.

HIS YOKE IS EASY, HIS BURDEN IS LIGHT By B. J. Clarke

It is ironic to consider that Jesus required more than the legalistic Pharisees and yet His way was easier. How could this be? The Pharisees required the performance of certain things without giving consideration to whether these external actions were motivated by hearts given over to God. They were more concerned with external actions than they were with the inner attitude of the heart.

Jesus required more than external actions. He required that these external actions be motivated by changed hearts. Paradoxically, this requires more, but is easier. It is not an oppressive and burdensome thing. *“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments and His commandments are not burdensome”* (1 John 5:3). Why are His commandments not burdensome? Because we obey them in love. A song from a few years ago entitled “He Ain’t Heavy; He’s My Brother” comes near to expressing the thought. I’ve got to carry my fallen brother, but it doesn’t seem like such a burden because of the relationship we have. If I were given the choice of carrying around a 10-pound sack of potatoes or my 30-pound grandson through an amusement park for 6 hours, I would surely choose my grandson. Although he is heavier and demands more care and attention, he seems lighter because

of my love and affection for him.

When we serve Christ out of a sense of legalistic duty, we torment our consciences. But when we serve Him out of a *“faith that worketh by love”* (Galatians 5:6), we enjoy the service. The problem of the Pharisees was that they trusted in themselves and not in God. This is precisely what led Christ to give the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:9-14). Our righteousness must look beyond the self-righteousness of the Pharisees if we are going to enter the Kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:20).

God requires service out of faith and heartfelt motivation and not out of meritorious works alone (Deuteronomy 30:12-14; Matthew 22:37; Luke 11:39-52). The Jews had perverted faith and served the law out of works only. Not only will *“faith only”* not save; neither will *“works only.”* Micah 6:6-8 demonstrates that God requires more than external works of obedience. *“Works only”* brings death (Galatians 3:12). To live by faith, obedient faith, brings rest and life. Truly, His yoke is easy and His burden is light because we love Him so (Matthew 11:28-30).

[-His Yoke is Easy, His Burden is Light - Forest Hill church of Christ \(foresthilcofc.org\)](http://foresthilcofc.org)

WHEN JESUS COMES

By Jonnie Hutchison

The Bible is clear that no human being knows when Jesus will come the second time (See Matthew 24:36; 1 Thess. 5:1-2; 2 Peter 3:10). However, it does speak to the fact of His second coming. Near the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus informed His disciples that He was going to leave them and return to the Father in heaven. To comfort them He made this promise, *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again** and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also”* (John 14:1-3). As Jesus' disciples watched Jesus ascend into heaven angels told them, *“Men of Galilee, why do **you** stand gazing up into heaven? **This same Jesus**, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come** in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”* (Acts 1:10-11).

What will happen when Jesus comes? Will He establish an earthly kingdom and reign over it for a thousand years? It is obvious from what the Bible teaches that such an idea is an impossibility. In describing the events of the second coming, the inspired Peter wrote, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up”* (2 Peter 3:10). This describes the destruction of this material universe at Christ's second coming. Peter continues in 2 Peter 3:12 saying, *“the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat.”* How then will Jesus' reign over His kingdom on a non-existent earth?

The truth is that Jesus is already reigning over His spiritual kingdom from heaven. He is now King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15). He established His kingdom at His first coming. Paul said he and the Colossian Christians were already in the kingdom (Col. 1:13), as was John (Rev. 1:9).

When Jesus comes the second time, He will not establish His kingdom but deliver it to the Father. *“Then comes **the end**, when **He delivers the kingdom to God the Father**, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power”* (1 Cor 15:24).

The burning question is, when Jesus comes will you and I be ready? (Read 1 Thess. 5:1ff).

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

Book of 1 Timothy

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

10:45

“Why So Many Choose Wrong Over Right”

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 2:00

“The Holy Spirit”

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Study of Premillennialism



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts