



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 40

January 9, 2022

Number 2

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

THE UNBELIEVABLE TRUTH BY DOY MOYER

The truth is sometimes difficult to accept. Faith can be hard. Many reject a teaching because they do not think what is being said is believable. While Christians would argue that the truth is indeed believable, we also must realize that there is something about the nature of it that, at first, may appear to be more difficult to receive. After all, we are asking that people accept that a crucified man was raised from the dead. Consider, for example, what Paul referenced at the end of his sermon in Acts 13:

“Look, you scoffers, marvel and vanish away, because I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will never believe, even if someone were to explain it to you.” (Acts 13:41)

Paul quoted this from [Habakkuk 1:5](#). In Habakkuk’s context, the sins of the people had reached a point where God determined that it was time bring judgment upon them. Habakkuk asked about it, and God told him that what was about to happen (using the Chaldeans to judge) would be something he wouldn’t believe. How could God use a wicked nation like Babylon

to judge his own people? Unbelievable. But that’s exactly what God did, and it serves as a witness to the way God works.

God does not conform to our expectations, and we need to learn to adjust the way we think. If we cannot live with that, then we can never accept what comes next, because what comes next will either be a stumbling block to us, foolishness to our ears, or a testimony to the wisdom and power of God.

Fast forward to the time of the preaching of the gospel. Paul preaches the death, resurrection, and kingship of Christ. The manner in which God accomplished salvation through Christ was, as in Habakkuk’s day, unbelievable at first hearing. And it served as a warning to those who rejected the message. If we expect God to act according to the way we think he ought, and then we reject him when he doesn’t conform to our thoughts, then we can only expect that “what is said in the prophets would happen to us. It may have seemed unbelievable, but it was the truth. God’s ways and thoughts are not ours, and it takes

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Larry Enoch, Mary and Jim Lowrie, and Jesse and Mary Vincent. Vickie Canter will be undergoing treatments this Wednesday at Louisville for her cancer. Please pray that these treatments will be successful. Hayes Grady suffered a stroke recently. Please remember he and Margorie in prayer.

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. Continue to pray for all those who continue to suffer from the after effects of the tornadoes in our area. Congregations across the nation have been very generous in sending financial support. Pray that hearts may be opened to be receptive to Bible studies.

- **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.
- Watch *A BIBLE ANSWER* each Sunday at 8:00 am locally on the CW WQWQ TV in Paducah, KY.
- “God loves you more in a moment than anyone could love you in a lifetime.”

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— “*Lessons From Jericho*”

Wednesday Bible Class
A Study of 1 John

7:00 PM

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humility to recognize that our own thoughts are not always so great.

“For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isa 55:9)

If we are not humble enough to accept this concept, then our own arrogance will get in the way of what comes next in God’s plans. Paul’s point in 1 Corinthians 1-2 falls right in line here. God would accomplish salvation in an unexpected manner that makes people question its viability. But God did it this way on purpose. The cross was a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. God has accomplished something through Christ that is unbelievable to mere human rationale. We cannot in any way take credit for the plan. Yet to our way of thinking, we wouldn’t do it this way, so surely God wouldn’t do it that way! Think again.

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is the power of God to us who are being saved. For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will set aside the intelligence of the intelligent.’ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the debater of this age? Hasn’t God made the world’s wisdom foolish? For since, in God’s wisdom, the world did not know God through

wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of what is preached.” (1 Cor 1:18-21)

The nature of the message makes the Gospel amazing. It’s not a story concocted in the minds of Jews or Gentiles. I could not have dreamed this up and neither could you. It’s a story they wouldn’t believe. A Jewish peasant from an obscure place in Galilee is crucified as a criminal (the most shameful, humiliating death imaginable), then raised from the dead and proclaimed Savior of the world? For so many, this is “a work that you will never believe, even if someone were to explain it to you.”

It’s only from the mind of God that salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus could be accomplished. Tell the story. Many won’t believe it because it doesn’t fit their rational categories. But when all the dust settles and all the options are considered, there is really only one place to land.

God did a work that may be unbelievable on the surface, but it is in demonstration of his love and power. It will have its scoffers as it always has, but scoffers pass on and vanish. The Gospel remains. Who and what will you trust?

[-The Unbelievable Truth - Bulletin Articles < Vestavia Church of Christ](#)

IS SALVATION BY “FAITH ONLY”? By Jonnie Hutchison

A denominational creed book states, “wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine and very full of comfort” (Book of Common Prayer, No. XI). Sometime ago this writer had a man tell him that he did not believe that baptism was essential to salvation. He further stated that he believed one could be saved by simply believing that Jesus is the Christ. He believed

in “faith only” salvation. It would do well for us to examine this belief in view of Bible teaching. It may surprise some to learn that the only time the words “faith only” appear in the Bible in the same verse is James 2:24 which reads, “You see then that a man is justified by works, and NOT by faith only.” According to this passage is one saved by “faith

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only?" The obvious answer is NO! The passage clearly states that one is not justified before God by "faith only." It also teaches that there is a kind of works that is necessary on the part of man in order that justification might take place. Are these works of human merit? Do we earn our salvation by human works? No (Ephesians 2:8-9). Are these the works of the Law of Moses? No (Galatians 5:4). Are these works of the flesh? Absolutely not (Galatians 5:19-21). None of these kinds of works lead to justification but neither does "faith only."

Could it be possible that the works that the book of James declares are necessary to one's justification is simply obedience to what God requires for one's salvation from sin? Does the Bible not tell us that Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation to all who **obey Him**"? (Hebrews 5:8-9). Whom will God punish with "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord"? The answer is "those who do not know God, and those who do not **obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 1:8-9). Whose souls are purified? The Bible answers in 1 Peter 1:22, "Since you have purified your souls in **obeying the truth**...." It should be obvious from these passages that without

obedience to what Jesus commands, man has no hope of justification before God.

In the great "faith chapter" of the New Testament (Hebrews 11), one may easily see that saving faith is always coupled with obedience to the will of God. Saving faith is an active, energetic, obedient faith. The faith that saves is the faith that takes God at His word and does what He says do. The only complete faith is an obedient faith. Such faith will not question nor doubt the commands of God but simply yield in obedience to them. This is justification by works of obedience and not by "faith only."

To say that one is saved by faith is true. To say that one is saved by "faith only" is a direct contradiction of the plain statement of scripture.

"These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11 NKJV).

"Atheists who keep asking for evidence of God's existence are like a fish in the ocean wanting evidence of water." - Ray Comfort



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