



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

November 17, 2024

Number 44

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;
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

“WHO AM I?” *By Jonnie Hutchison*

When Jesus Christ was in the region of Caesarea Philippi He asked His disciples “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” The disciples at first gave the most common beliefs of the general public regarding Jesus — some say John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Then Jesus addressed His apostles, the men who had been with Him, who had sat at His feet as He had taught, and who had witnessed His miracles, “But who do **you** say that I am?” There seems to have been no hesitation on the part of Peter in answering the Lord’s query: “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Jesus’ response to this confession of Peter indicates that Peter hit the nail on the head!

If Jesus were to ask people today “Who Am I?” what kind of answers would He receive?

Unbelievers would answer that “you are a non-existent figment of man’s imagination.” In 1985 a man by the name of Gerald Massey wrote a book in which he declared of Jesus Christ, “whether considered as the God made human, or as man made divine, this character never existed

as a person” (*Gnostic and Historic Christianity*, p. 22). Those who deny the existence of Jesus Christ as a person who lived and breathed must also reject the extra-biblical proof for His existence. Two reliable historians mention Jesus as a person in their writings. Josephus, a Jewish historian, mentions Jesus twice in his book *Antiquities of the Jews*, calling Him a “wise man...a doer of marvelous deeds, a teacher of men who receive the truth with pleasure” (Section 18). He also declared “Jesus who was called the Christ” as the brother of James (Section 20). Tacitus, a Roman historian, in his book of the history of Rome, referred to the execution of Christ by Pontius Pilate (*Annals*, 15:44). These historians and others testify to the existence of the man Jesus Christ. To deny that Jesus Christ was an actual person is to deny reality.

The Muslim would answer “you are a good prophet inferior to Mohammed but you are not the divine Son of God.” From an article on the website *islam-guide.com* the following statements are made about Jesus:

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek) Hayes Grady is in Murray Hospital room 2511. Marjorie Grady is in Murray Hospital room 2514. Continue to pray for Marie Wyatt, Jackie and Don Spiceland, Dave & Ann Thompson, Peggy Jarvis is in Murray Hospital room 2528. Her condition is serious. Joan Lathrop is home.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Larry and Rose Wyatt, Tonya Morris, Gina Hutchison, Donald Cook, Teri Mercer and Neal Parker.

TRY ITEMS November 2024: 3-Spaghetti Sauce; 10-Salt; 17-Soups; 24-Tuna. All items must be **non-perishable or canned**.

November 2024; Anniversaries: 1-Ann & Dave Thompson; 13-Jane & Bent Morris; 17-Debbie & Mike Ernstberger; 23-Joan & Russell Lathrop. **Birthdays:** 11-Joan Lathrop.

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.

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 enroll online on our webpage. This is a great way to increase your Bible knowledge. Enroll Today!

AREA EVENTS: Area Wide Singing at the Whitlock church of Christ, November 22nd at 7:00 pm. See the bulletin board for details.

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“It is clear enough for everyone that the Quran denies the divinity of Jesus, so we do not need to spend much time explaining that....The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is not God...the disciples never came to the conclusion that Jesus is God....all the writers of the Bible believed that God was not Jesus....Peter did not see the miracles as proof that Jesus is God” (*The Bible Denies the Divinity of Jesus*). Another article declares, “the controversy about the personality of Jesus Christ is the major difference between Islam and Christianity” (*The Truth About Jesus*). The religion of Islam rejects the divinity of Jesus, denies the crucifixion of Jesus, and places Jesus in rank below the prophet Mohammed. It is obvious that the view of the Qur’an that Jesus Christ was not the di-

vine Son of God (“*God is not like humans to need children. God declares that He is self-sufficient. He has no need for such things*” - Qur’an 10:68) is a direct contradiction to the confession of Peter, “You are the Christ the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16). No adherent to Islam would give the answer that Peter gave to the question of Jesus “Who am I?”

Some religious people would answer, “you are the same person as God the Father and the Holy Spirit whose name is Jesus.” “Are there three persons in the Godhead? No.” (*60 Questions on the Godhead*, United Pentecostal Church International—upci.org). Those of this persuasion believe that the names Father, Son and Holy Ghost

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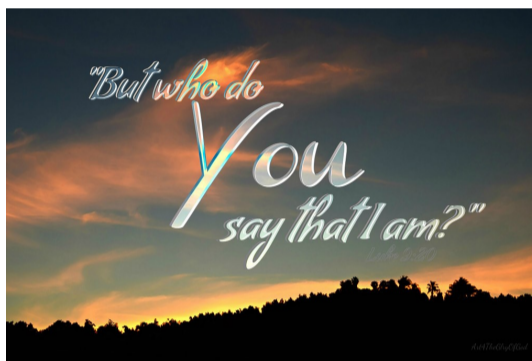
describe the same person operating in different capacities.

The Bible certainly teaches that there is “one God” (Deut. 6:4; 1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah 43:11; Galatians 3:20; James 2:10). Jesus declared that He and the Father are “one” (John 10:30). Jesus prayed that His disciples would be “one” as He and the Father are one (John 17:20-21). Does this mean that Jesus and

His Father are one and the same person? Was Jesus praying that His disciples would all become “one person”? Obviously, the prayer of Jesus was for the unity of His disciples—that they would be one in belief and practice as is the Father and the Son. In writing of those

passages that speak of the “oneness of God” brother Wayne Jackson says, “...the meaning is **there is but one divine nature**. There is a **unified** set of traits or characteristics that distinguish a personality as God....There is but **one** divine nature, but there are **three** distinct **personalities** possessing that unified set of infinite qualities.” (*The Biblical Doctrine of the Godhead*, Christian Courier online).

The Bible is filled with passages which emphasize the individuality of each member of the Godhead. At His baptism, Jesus was in the water, the Father was speaking from heaven and the Holy Spirit was between heaven and earth descending in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:16-17). By what reasoning would one conclude that all three were the same person? The fact that Jesus is said to be the “Mediator between God and men” suggests two separate persons (1 Timothy 2:5). The meaning of the passage is nonsensical otherwise. Jesus taught a distinction between His person and that of the Holy Spirit in the



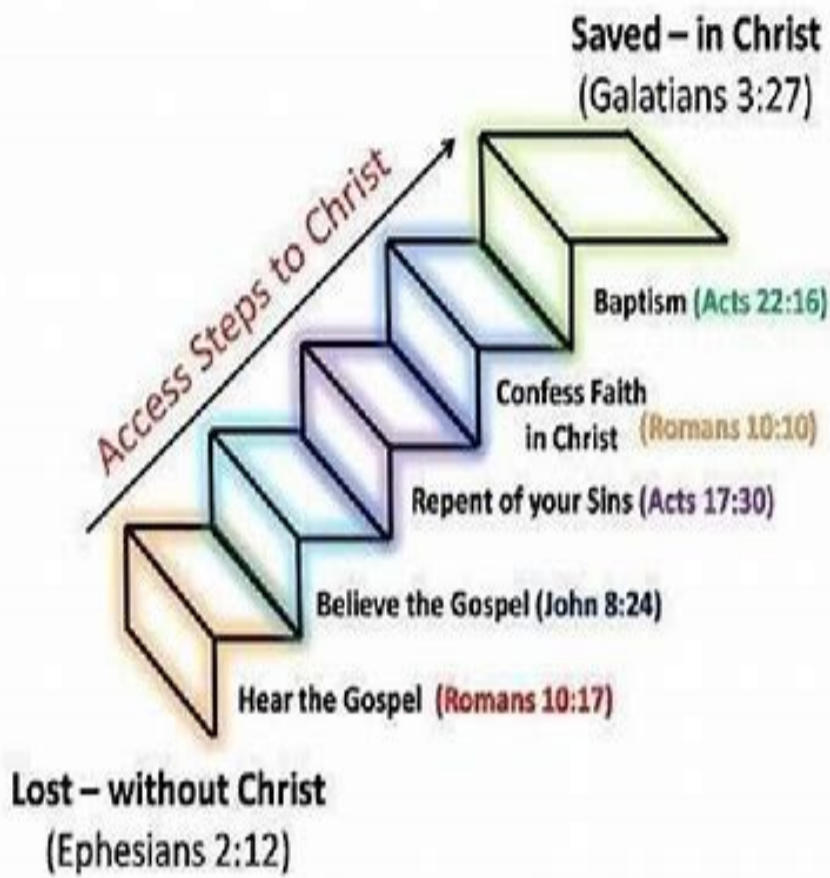
words, “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven Him, either in this age or in the age to come” (Matthew 12:32). If Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the same person then would not speaking against one be equivalent to speaking against the other? There are many other passages which show that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

are not the same person. Yet, some would answer Jesus question of “Who Am I” by wrongly declaring Him to be the same person as God the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Some Christians may answer the question of Jesus of “Who Am I?” by saying,

“You are my part-time Lord.” Although following Jesus faithfully demands self-denial and cross bearing (Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23), some are not willing to give up those things in their lives that are spiritually harmful. They want to hold on to the sinful things of the world and to the Lord at the same time. They are what used to be called “Sunday morning only Christians.” This is one who does not practice his or her Christianity except when other Christians are around. Of course, Jesus teaches that spiritually speaking one cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). One serves either the devil or the Lord and it is impossible to serve both simultaneously and live a life acceptable to God. Until the Christian develops a genuine love for God as opposed to loving the world, he/she will not experience the true joy of being a faithful servant of the Lord.

Jesus asks, “Who do you say I, the Son of Man Am”? The answer you give to this question will determine whether your eternal destination is heaven or hell.



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**
"A Study of Matthew"
- SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 AM**
"Following the Golden Rule"
- SUNDAY WORSIP 6:00 PM**
"Sow In Tears, Reap In Joy"
- Wednesday 7:00 PM**
"A Study of Ecclesiastes"

THOSE TO SERVE November 2024

- Announcements: Chad
- Lord's Table AM: Roy & Junior
- Lord's Table PM: 3-Roy; 10-Junior; 17-Roy; 24-Junior
- Opening Prayer AM: 3-James; 10-Jonnie; 17-Jimmy; 24-Mike
- Closing Prayer AM: 3-Bobby; 10-Dave; 17-Jesse; 24-Russell
- Lead Songs: Sunday AM-Perry; Sunday PM-Chad; Wednesday-Mike
- Count Contribution: Roy & Junior



A Bi-Biweekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts