



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

December 10, 2023

Number 47

## 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](mailto:greenplaincoc@gmail.com)
- [greenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

## WHAT ONE MUST KNOW TO BE SCRIPTURALLY BAPTIZED *By Jonnie Hutchison*

### ONE MUST KNOW THE TRUTH

Jesus said, “*You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32). What God has revealed in His Word, the Bible, is truth. Jesus identified the source of divine truth when He prayed to the Father, “*Sanctify them through your truth. Your word is truth*” (John 17:17). It should be obvious that before one may be scripturally baptized he must hear and learn the truth.

### ONE MUST KNOW AND BE- LIEVE THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS

It is the truth found in God’s Word that produces faith (Romans 10:17). Without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Before one may be scripturally baptized he must believe the testimony of scripture that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. His Deity is proven by His conception in the womb of a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matthew 1:23),

His fulfillment in His life of over 300 Old Testament prophecies, His unique teaching (Matthew 22:22; John 7:46), His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), His death on a Roman cross, and His resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4; 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 15:20). Jesus said it is he “who believes and is baptized” who will be saved (Mark 16:16).

### ONE MUST KNOW THE NEED OF REPENTANCE

The inspired Peter told those on Pentecost who were seeking salvation to “...*Repent and be baptized...for the remission of sins....*” (Acts 2:38). Repentance is often defined as a change of mind resulting in a change of action. If one repents of sin he will cease the practice of it. No one who believes he may continue to practice the same sins for which he seeks forgiveness can be scripturally baptized. Repentance must precede baptism.

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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 Lowrie.

**Family and Friends:** Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Bonnie Byerly, Tommy Boggess, Kim Burrows, Lucetria Hutchison, Carleigh Hutchison (Gail & Jonnie's granddaughter) and Jan's brother Ted Clark.

**TIME CHANGE:** We will be meeting on Sunday afternoons at **2:00 pm** for worship rather than our usual 6:00 pm. This will continue at least through the winter months.

**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.

**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.

**PANTRY ITEMS December 2023:** 3—Great Norther Beans; 10-Spinach 17-Carrots; 24-Canned Meats; 31– Mixed vegetables. All items must be **non-perishable or canned**.

**December 2023; Anniversaries:** 17-Mary & Jesse Vincent; 22–Marjorie & Hayes Grady.

**Birthdays:** 7-Mike Ernstberger; 9-Debbie Ernstberger; 12-Wanda (Robert) Barrett; 12-Jesse Vincent; 16-Chad Canter; 17-Marie Wyatt; 18-Wanda (Alex) Barrett.

Concerning His second coming and the end of the world, Jesus said, ““But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only” (Matt 24:36). That being true, why do so many continue to predict the present events in the Middle East are signs of Jesus' coming soon? Think about it.

### THSE TO SERVE December 2023

Announcements: Mike Ernstberger

Table AM: James Pigg & Chad Canter

Table PM: 3-Chad; 10-James; 17-Chad;  
24-James; 31-Chad

Opening Prayer AM: 3-Jonnie; 10-Perry;  
17-Bobby; 24-Jim L. 31-Mike

Closing Prayer AM: 3-Roy; 10-Dave; 17-Brent;  
24-Chad; 31-Jesse

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

Count Contribution: James & Chad

**If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter**



**WATCH  
AND HEAR  
THE  
GOSPEL  
24/7**

**GBNTV.ORG**

**GOSPEL  
BROADCASTING  
NETWORK**

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### **ONE MUST KNOW THE NEED TO CONFESS FAITH IN CHRIST**

When Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian Eunuch he preached the necessity of baptism for salvation. We know that from the question the Eunuch asked Philip in Acts 8:36 which reads, *"Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?'"* Philip answered, *"If you believe with all your heart, you may."* That is when the Ethiopian confessed, *"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."* (Acts 8:37). Only then did Philip baptize the Ethiopian. This verbal confession of faith precedes baptism (See Romans 10:9-10; Acts 17:30-31).

### **ONE MUST KNOW THE NECESSITY AND PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM**

Many religious denominations teach that salvation comes before and without water baptism. They teach that one is saved at the point of faith or after praying the so-called "sinner's prayer." Is baptism a "church ordinance" or simply a symbol that one has already been saved? The Bible answers these questions in the negative.

?Before one may be scripturally baptized he must understand that contacting the blood of Jesus is necessary to be cleansed of sin. Peter wrote that one is not redeemed by "corruptible things" but with "the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). John wrote of Jesus, "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" (Revelation 1:5). That raised the

question at what point in man's response to God is the cleansing blood of Jesus applied? Is it at the point of faith in Christ? Is it through the "sinner's prayer"? Is it at the point of repentance or when one confesses faith in Christ? The Bible answer to each of these questions is NO!

The truth is that one reaches the cleansing blood of Jesus in water baptism. Is it the water that washes away sin? No, it is the blood of Jesus which is applied when one as a penitent, confessing believer is baptized (immersed) into Christ.

Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:33-34). Romans 6:3 reads, *"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death?**"* To contact the death of Jesus is to spiritually contact His blood. That is why Peter declared to the Jews on Pentecost to *"Repent and be baptized...for [in order to receive JH] the remission of sins."* (Acts 2:38). That is why Ananias told Saul, *"Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins...."* (Acts 22:16). This is why in every single case of conversion found in the book of Acts those who heard and believed the gospel were baptized. Baptism puts one "into Christ" where salvation is located (Galatians 3:27; 2 Timothy 2:10). If one is saved before baptism then he is saved outside of Christ. If one is saved before baptism then he is saved before reaching the cleansing blood of Jesus.

### **ONE MUST KNOW THAT ONE IS BAPTIZED INTO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

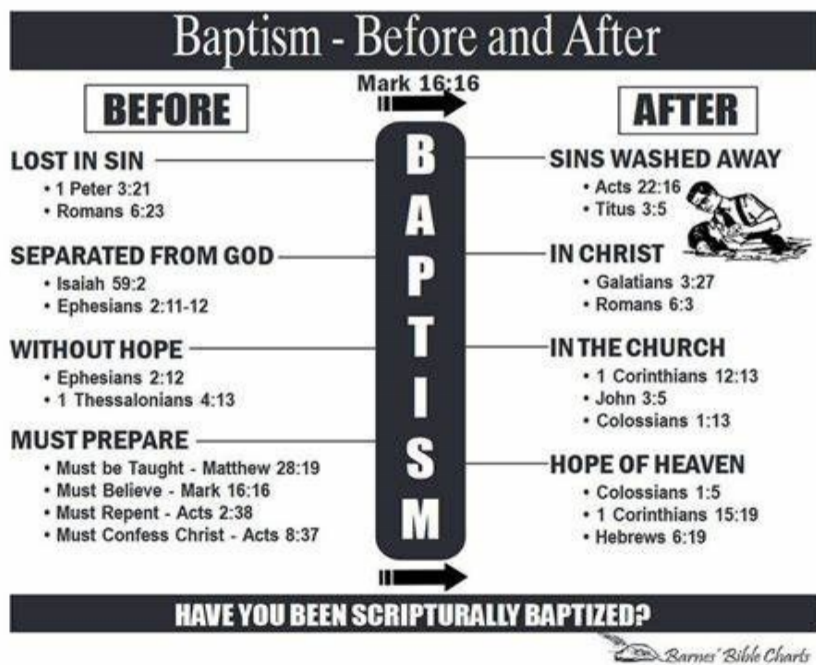
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To be baptized into Christ is to be baptized into His spiritual body which is His church. *“For by one Spirit we were all **baptized into one body**....”* (1 Corinthians 12:13a).that “one body” is the church that belongs to Christ. *“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to **the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all**”* (Eph. 1:22-23). Those who obeyed the Lord’s command to “repent and be baptized in Acts 2, were saved and added to the church (Acts 2:38, 41, 47). One does not “join” the Lord’s church as one joins a denominational church. The Lord adds the saved to His church.

Dear reader, as you reflect upon your “baptism”, did you know these vital truths? Were you “baptized believing you were already saved? Were you “baptized” simply to join a church? Did you honestly understand that your baptism was for the purpose of the remission of your sins? If you were “baptized as an infant how could you believe, repent and confess faith in Christ? If you had water sprinkled or poured on you for “baptism” then how could you have been “buried with Christ”? (Romans 6:4).

Someone has well said, “You can’t be taught wrong and baptized right.” Be honest with yourself and with God, was your “baptism” scriptural? If you have doubts then why are you waiting, “Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).



**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**  
**Study of Matthew**

**SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45**  
**“A Study of John 1:1-5”**  
**Ron Hutchison**

**SUNDAY PM WORSIP 6:00**  
**“UFO’s, ET’s & the Bible”**  
**Ron Hutchison**

**Wednesday 7:00 pm**  
**Study of Premillennialism**



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts