



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

December 12, 2021

Number 48

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 GREATEST GIFTS BY JONNIE HUTCHISON

We have entered the season in which gifts are given and received. These gifts are given and received with joy and appreciation. Of course, these material gifts are not the best or greatest gifts which we humans may receive. Who has given the greatest gifts to humankind? The Bible answers, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”* (James 1:17). Yes, God has given the greatest gifts. His Heavenly gifts are both good and perfect. The question for each of us is, “Have I accepted His gifts?” Gift giving is incomplete until one accepts the gift.

God has given us the gift of Jesus Christ. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16). God’s gift of Jesus is a gift of the greatest love. In writing of God’s grace shown in Jesus Christ, Paul declared, *“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”* (2 Corinthians 9:15). Jesus gave Himself as a sacrifice for the

sins of the world. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 tells us, *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”* To accept Jesus as the Son of God is the starting point for obtaining the forgiveness of sins through His shed blood. As a believer, one who repents of sin, confesses faith in Christ and is baptized into Jesus’ death receives the forgiveness of sins and thus, the benefit of God’s gift of Jesus (John 8:24; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 17:30; Romans 6:3-4).

God has given the gift of His written Word inspired by the Holy Spirit. *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We would know nothing of the gift of Jesus, or the salvation provided through Him without this precious gift. God’s Word is truth (John 17:17). It is by knowing His truth that one may be made free from the bondage of sin (John 8:32).

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Larry Enoch, and Mary and Jim Lowrie. And Jesse and Mary Vincent. Vickie Canter is recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor. She remains in Lourdes Hospital in Paducah as of this writing.

Family and Friends: Teresa Tacker, Bryan White, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Joel White, Mary Lou Joseph, Jennie Pool. Nat and Rita Evans and Larry and Rose Wyatt. Please let us know of those who have improved or any one who needs to be added to this list.

- **PANTRY ITEMS November 2021:** 5—Stewed Tomatoes; 12—Spaghetti Sauce; 19—Tuna; 26—Apple Sauce. 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.
- **December 2021 Anniversaries:** 17—Mary & Jesse Vincent; 22—Marjorie & Hayes Grady; 17-Debbie & Mike Ernstberger; **Birthdays:** 7-Mike Ernstberger; 9—Debbie Ernestberger; 12—Wanda Barrett (Murray Paris Rd); 12—Jesse Vincent; 17—Marie Wyatt; 18-Wanda Barrett (Green Plain RD); 16—Cody Canter; 21—Larry Enoch; 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.
- *“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.” (1 John 5:14-15).*

THOSE TO SERVE DECEMBER 2021

Announcements: Chad Canter

Preside at Lord’s Table AM: James & Chad

Preside at Lord’s Table PM: 5th-James; 12th-Chad;
19th-James; 26th Chad.

Opening Prayer AM

5th-Jim Lowrie; 12th-Mike Ernstberger; 19th-Jonnie Hutchison; 26th-Bobby Hall.

Closing Prayer PM

5th-Roy Wyatt; 12th-Dave Thompson;
19th-Perry Jarvis; 26th-Junior Morris

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

Count Contribution: James & Chad

LESSONS TODAY

Bible Study-10 AM
The Book of Acts

Worship

10:45 am— *“Why Suffering Happens”*

6 pm— *“Our Adversary in 3 Forms”*

Wednesday Bible Class
A Study of 1 John

7:00 PM

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Paul addressed the elders from Ephesus in the words, “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified” (Acts 20:32).

God has given the gift of hope. To obtain the forgiveness of sins through Jesus’ blood is to receive the hope of eternal life in heaven promised by God who cannot lie. Titus 1:2 reads, “in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.” It is our hope in Christ which sustains us through the darkest hours of life. The

Hebrew writer describes this hope as “*an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast*” (Hebrews 6:19). Without this hope one is adrift in a sea of despair and uncertainty. With this great gift of hope one looks to the future with wondrous anticipation and tremendous assurance. What a wonderful gift!

Dear reader, have you accepted the gift of salvation given through Jesus as revealed in His Word? He wants to grant you His good and perfect gifts. The greatest gifts! Will you accept them? Remember, He is the “*author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him*” (Heb. 5:9).

DOES GOD KNOW HOW YOU FEEL? Kevin Cauley

Daddy, do you think God knows how we are feeling” were the words of my seven year old son after we found our pet dog, Dallas, dead in the back yard on a September morning. It was the first time he had lost any living thing to which he had an emotional attachment. He was crying hard and didn’t know how to express his sadness. Yet, it was expressed in a profoundly common way. He wanted to know if God understood and cared that his little heart was breaking. “Yes,” I answered. “God knows exactly what you are feeling.” I wanted to cry along with him and did.

There are so many more tragic things in life than the death of a beloved pet, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that the feelings or emotions are any less real. And in many tragic circumstances, people ask the same question, “Does God know how we are feeling? Does He care?” Yes, He does.

It would be a cruel, insensitive, and heartless creator that didn’t care about his creation’s well being. We have little sympathy for fathers and mothers that have no natural affection toward their own children. So

also, a god that didn’t care for his creation would be no god at all. Of course the God of the universe, the Creator and Giver of all life, cares about His creation. We’re reminded of God’s care for us in Luke 12:6-7 “Are not five sparrows sold for two pence? and not one of them is forgotten in the sight of God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not: ye are of more value than many sparrows.” In the words of Civilla D. Martin, “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.”

The Bible also teaches us that we can carry our burdens to God in prayer. Just as we would talk to our earthly father and let him know of our joys, aspirations, and concerns in life, so also we may approach our heavenly Father. It is the privilege of every one of his children to be able to talk to Him in prayer as Father. Galatians 4:6 declares, “And because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” When we so approach our Father, we can then, as Peter tells us, cast “all

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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!

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your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Perhaps, however, the greatest proof that God does indeed care for us is in the love that He showed us through His Son, Jesus. Does God know what it feels like to lose someone dear to Him? Yes, he does, because God gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not also with him freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

And Jesus, God Himself, experienced what it was like to live as a man. "For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we

are, yet without sin." He knows what our feelings are like when we are sad, lonely, depressed, aching, despondent, and hurting. And he cares. He also experienced those feelings. Yes, God KNOWS what and how we are feeling.

What is sad, however, is that many will not turn to God's word as the source of true comfort. God knows each of us better than we know ourselves; so, God can tell us what we need to do to appropriately work through our strong feelings without resorting to methods and means that would only deepen our unresolved problems. God's word has all of the answers to life's problems and through our faith in it, we can overcome (1 John 5:4).

—[God Knows How You Are Feeling - Church of Christ Articles](#)



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