



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

December 17, 2023

Number 48

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

DOES IT MATTER WHAT THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY? *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Those who accept the Bible as the verbally inspired revelation of God to man recognize that every single word in the Bible has significance. Consider 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "*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.*" What God says in His Word matters! Without it we would not know of God's plan for our salvation nor how to respond to it. That response includes faith in Jesus Christ (John 8:24; Mark 16:16), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession of faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), immersion in water into the death of Jesus to reach His blood whereby our sins are washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4), and faithful service as a Christian (Hebrews 12:28).

What God commands us to do to be saved from our sins mat-

ters But, what about what God doesn't say in His Word – does that matter? May we speak where God has NOT spoken and still please God? May we add to His words with impunity? Or, must we respect the silence of God?

The inspired Peter wrote, "*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God....*" (1 Peter 4:11). The word "oracles" simply refers to what God has revealed to man, that is, His written Word, the Bible. This passage indicates that we are to speak as the Bible speaks. The logical implication from this passage is that where the Bible has not spoken we are not permitted to speak. Therefore, it is presumptuous and sinful to add to what God has already spoken (See Deut. 4:2; Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19).

Respecting what God has said as well as what He has not said is equivalent to submitting to His authority. God authorizes reli-

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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.

SYMPATHY: We were saddened to hear of the passing of Gerald Carroll this past week. Our sympathy goes out to his brother Charles and all his family and friends. Gerald was a friend of many in the congregation here at Green Plain and several assisted him in various ways in recent years. Visitation is 12:00 to 1:00 pm with the funeral at 1:00 pm at Imes Funeral Home on 4th Steet in Murray.

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.

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



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religious teaching and practice **by what He has said, not by what He has not said.** What that means is that if one cannot find a religious teaching or practice in God's spiritual law then God has not authorized or given man His permission to teach or practice it. The New Testament is the spiritual law to which all are subject today (Matthew 26:28; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 9:15; Galatians 6:2). The Old Testament law served its purpose and is no longer in force as a binding spiritual law having been taken away at the death of Jesus (Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 2:14-16; 2 Corinthians 3:1ff).

The purpose of this article has been to encourage each of us to examine closely what we believe and practice in our efforts to serve God. Surely each of us want to make sure that we are speaking only as the oracles of God and not embracing human religious traditions and practices that have no basis in scripture and which Jesus clearly condemned. Jesus said, *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."* (Matt 15:8-9).

TREASURES IN HEAVEN *By Kevin Cauley*

The holiday season is upon us, and many will be bustling about acquiring various items to supplement the various chattel that already adorn our domiciles. This year will be different, though. More online purchases and less in-person purchases will be the norm. While we are giving, let's not forget to give something that will truly last. I refer to those treasures in heaven that can never be taken away. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Peter tells us that everything that is in the earth will one day be burned up. "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). We should not put a lot of stock in physical things that will one day perish, but rather, focus on the spiritual. Where is our treasure? Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 1:11-12 states, "They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail."

How do we give Jesus? By giving people His words. Everyone will be judged by them (John 12:48).



OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

We're surrounded! At workplaces, in schools, on city streets, at shopping malls, and in our neighborhoods — there is no place free from the influence of godlessness. Dishonesty, profanity, immodesty, drunkenness, sexual immorality, and materialism have become the norms in many cases. These behaviors and many others like them are accepted and even glorified. No place is given for the influence of God and His Word. Men have chosen to disregard the existence, power, and authority of the Creator and their lifestyles have degenerated accordingly ([Romans 1.18-32](#)).

Is it any wonder, then, that children of God are called upon to keep themselves “unstained by the world” ([James 1.27](#)), uncorrupted by the rampant spirit of rebellion against God Himself? But it's not easy. Sure, if we could completely isolate ourselves from every influence of godlessness and immorality, the kind of holiness expected by God would be simple. But we live in the world, with all of its influences ([1 Corinthians 5.9-10](#)), and at the same time we must live above those influences. That is our challenge — to follow the example of Christ, who lived in but not of the world ([John 9.5; 17.16](#)).

This is a matter of the heart. Jesus said plainly, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” ([Matthew 6.21](#)). In other words, our devotion follows that upon which we place our greatest value. If the world, its standards, and its benefits receive our highest esteem, then God, His will, and His blessings will fall from our favor. “No one can serve two masters” ([Matthew 6.24](#)). We must choose the focus of our hearts, to either love the world or to love God, and our devotion will be determined accordingly.

To Christians, John the apostle wrote, “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” ([1 John 2.15](#)). Affection for the world and affection for God are mutually incompatible. There is no position of compromise for the child of God. One who seeks to divide his loyalty between the world and God has unwittingly made himself the opponent of God. And it matters not how cursory or how consuming, any love of the world is condemned. “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” ([James 4.4](#)). Such split devotion is tantamount to spiritual adultery, being unfaithful to the commitment made as a disciple of Christ.

In what or in whom should we place our confidence? Shall we depend upon that which is transitory and uncertain at best, or shall we trust the One who is eternal and almighty? “The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever” ([1 John 2.17](#)).

—[Our Relationship With the World - Bulletin articles & church of Christ at Greenwood](#)

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
“Spiritual Mathematics”

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 6:00
“Jesus’ First & Second Comings—A Contrast”

Wednesday 7:00 pm
Study of Premillennialism



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts