



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 40

December 18, 2022

Number 51

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;
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
- greenplaincoc@gmail.com
- greenplainchurchofchrist.org

IT'S A MATTER OF BIBLE AUTHORITY

By Jonnie Hutchison

When the inspired Paul wrote to the church of Christ in Colosea he imparted this divine directive, *“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (Colossians 3:17). Doing anything “in the name of the Lord Jesus” requires His prior permission. For example, the Lord has not given His permission to substitute for the elements of the Lord’s Supper. Therefore, we do not have His authority to substitute yeast roles or grape soda for the unleavened bread and grape juice. To do so would be a direct violation of Colossians 3:17 and other passages (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev. 22:18-19).

What about religious holy days? Where has the Lord given us permission to celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25th as a religious holy day? Some would argue, what could possibly be wrong with doing so, after all, “we should be thankful that Jesus Christ is being honored and His name exalted.” What could possibly be wrong in that? Yet, the question must be asked can

we honor Christ and exalt His name by acting without His permission or authority? Where has He commanded us to observe “Christmas” as a religious holy day? Where is the book, chapter and verse that gives us permission to say, “Jesus is the reason for the season?” Where is the example of the New Testament church keeping the day of His birth as a special religious celebration?

The Lord authorizes (gives His permission) through His Word and only through His Word. The Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Peter to write, *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Peter 4:11). Can one speak as the oracles of God while claiming “Christmas” as a religious holy day?

While the events surrounding the birth of Jesus are vitally important in proving His Deity, our Lord has not given us permission to make the day of His birth (which date he has not revealed to us) a religious holy day. However, He has given us His permission (by way of command and

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis, Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Mary Lowrie, Hayes and Margorie Grady, Mary and Jesse Vincent, and Brent Morris.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Joel White, Nat Evans, Larry and Rose Wyatt. Bonnie Byerly, Kenny Arrington, Tommy Boggess, Tish Clarke, Don Enoch and Jill Setter. Please continue to pray for our brethren in Ukraine. Remember those this congregation is supporting in India.

OPEN HOUSE today following the evening services at the home of Jan and James Pigg. All are invited.

PANTRY ITEMS December 2022: 4—Canned Tomatoes; 11—Canned Peaches; 18—Apple Sauce; 25—Mixed Vegetables.

December 2022 Anniversaries: 17—Mary & Jesse Vincent; 22—Marjorie & Hayes Grady; **Birthdays:** 7—Mike Ernstberger; 9—Debbie Ernstberger; 12—Wanda Barrett (Murray); 12—Jesse Vincent; 16—Cody Canter; 17—Marie Wyatt; 18—Wanda Barrett (Hazel); Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. Send your name, mailing address and phone number to the address on the first page of this bulletin. We will send you the first lesson of the course with a self-addressed stamped envelope for you to return the lesson for grading. Upon completion of the course you will receive a certificate of completion.

BACK TO THE BIBLE is a free home Bible study where our teachers sit down around your kitchen table with open Bibles and present the original gospel of Christ. If you are interested in this study, simply contact us in person, by phone at 270-978-7569 or email us at greenplaincoc@gmail.com.

THOSE TO SERVE DECEMBER 2022

Announcements—Mike

Preside at Lord's Table—James & Chad
Lord's Table PM: 4-Chad; 11-James; 14-Chad; 18-James;
27-Chad

Opening Prayer AM

4-Jim L.; 11-Mike; 18-Jonnie; 25-Bobby

Closing Prayer AM

4-Roy; 11-Dave; 18-Junior; 25-Perry

Song Leaders

AM—Perry; PM-Chad; Wed-Mike
Count Contribution: James & Chad

Thanks for Serving!

**GOSPEL
BROADCASTING
NETWORK
THE GOSPEL 24/7
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*A panel of gospel preachers
answers your Bible
questions*

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example) to remember the day of **His death** in partaking of the Lord's Supper **each first day of the week**. We have His permission as given in Matthew 26:26-29 where Jesus, "took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." The Father's kingdom is the church of Christ. We have His permission by example as the church in Troas assembled on the first day of the week "to break bread" (Acts 20:7).

We have Jesus' permission in what Paul wrote to the Corinthian church giving the church permission to come together in the assembly to partake of the Lord's supper and thereby remember and proclaim the death of Jesus until He comes again (1 Corinthians 11:20-26). Yes, we are authorized to assemble on the first day of each week to worship in remembering the death of Jesus but this is the only "holy day" this side of the cross which the Lord has given His permission and command to keep.

Yes, it's a matter of the Lord's authority. Either we submit to it or suffer the eternal consequences for rejecting it. Remember, **"whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name (by the authority or permission) of the Lord Jesus!**

TIS THE SEASON *By Randy Shouse*

We are rapidly approaching the time of year when many of our friends and the world in general thinks about Jesus. In particular, the baby Jesus. Nativity scenes are displayed, special services are held, and we see the billboards proclaiming, "Jesus is the reason for the season". How do we respond to this? What do we say when we are asked about our "special" Christmas services? Let's look at this from a Bible prospective.

It must be understood that nowhere in the Bible does God give us any definitive date for Jesus' birth. Only two of the four gospels even mention his birth (Matthew and Luke). We are told that He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) and that was during the reign of Roman emperor Augustus Caesar (Luke 2:1). Other than that, we are given no time of year or even the year itself. This should tell us that the actual day is not that important. We have already been given "everything pertaining to life and godli-

ness" (2 Peter 1:2).

Contrast this with the death and resurrection of which we are told the time (Passover) and the day (1st day of the week). We also note that the early church, led by the inspired Apostles met on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) to worship. Nowhere in the Bible do we ever read about any special celebration for Jesus' birth.

So, what does the birth of Jesus mean to us? It is the fulfillment of God's promise to man to send a savior (Romans 8:3, Ephesians 2:4-8). It means the delivery of God's word to mankind (Hebrews 1:2, John 1:14). It opened the door to salvation for us (Romans 16:25-27).

Someone may ask, "what does it hurt to pick out a special day to celebrate Jesus' birth?" God has given us instruction on how to worship him. He has set out a pattern (Hebrews 8:5, 2 Peter 3:1). It includes sing-

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ing, praying, observing the communion, giving and teaching. If we add to this "special days" are we not telling God that we think we have a better way than He has given us? Jesus cautions us to "do the will of the father" (Matthew 7:21-23). Paul warned us about "self-made" religion (Colossians 2:20-23).

Let's instead use the opportunity to talk to people about Jesus and God. It is one of the few times when lots of people even think about Jesus. Invite them to a service, engage them in a Bible study, tell them the real way to celebrate Jesus' birth is by taking advantage of His sacrifice by becoming a Christian and have Him make a difference in our lives each day of the year.

—[Tis the Season - Bulletin Articles](#) < [Fishers Church of Christ](#)
(fishers-churchofchrist.com)

Colossians 3:23 – 24

**“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
NKJV**

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Bible Study **OPPORTUNITIES**



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE
CLASS 10:00 AM
“The Book of Acts”

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45
“Are We Saved By Works?”

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 6:00
“Jesus Cleanses the Temple”
John 2:13-25

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM
“A Study of the
Minor Prophets”

WEEKLY PODCAST

“Around the Spiritual Table”

In the Around the Spiritual Table Podcast, we will discuss various Bible topics and answer your Biblical and spiritual questions. To submit a topic or question for discussion, please email spiritualtable101@gmail.com. Come sit around the spiritual table with us.

Presented by the Coldwater & Dexter churches of Christ Host: Luke Puckett

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