



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

December 19, 2021

Number 49

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

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD? BY KEITH SHAP

No Bible subject is more important than the kingdom of God. The word “kingdom” is found 236 times in the Bible. The substance of the preaching of both John the Baptist and Jesus was “the kingdom of God” (Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17). Righteous Israelites in the days of John and Jesus were looking for the kingdom (Mark 15:43). But, because they misunderstood its nature, the Jewish leaders were shut out of the kingdom of God (Matthew 23:13). What is the kingdom of God?

Eternal, Universal Rule of God

The word “kingdom” primarily denotes rule (cf. Daniel 2:39), and the kingdom of God is the rule of God (Psalm 45:6). God rules over everything (Psalm 103:19), including the nations of men, giving them “to whomever He will” (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32). His dominion is everlasting (Daniel 4:2-3).

Old Testament Israel

Old Testament Israel became His special kingdom at Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:5-6). God was King over Israel (Psalm 149:2; cf. 1 Samuel 8:1-7), and the throne of Israel was the throne of God (1 Kings 2:12; 1 Chronicles 29:23). When national Israel killed the Son of God, the Lord God rejected them as His kingdom (Matthew 21:33-46).

Church of Christ

God now rules through His Son, Christ Jesus. When the prophet Daniel interpreted King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of a great image, He concluded by prophesying that during the days of the fourth kingdom (Rome) “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44). Earlier Isaiah had prophesied a Child to be born to sit “upon the throne of David and

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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 will be receiving treatment in Louisville following her recent surgery. She also had appointments with a radiologist and an oncologist this past week. Continue to pray for Vickie, Chad, Kaitlyn and Cody during this trying time.

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. Pray for all those who lost loved ones, homes & their livelihood in the recent storm.

- **OPEN HOUSE** at the Pigg's this evening following services. All are invited to attend.
- **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.

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— ***“Our Adversary in 3 Forms”***

6 pm— ***“Christ our Mediator”***

Wednesday Bible Class
A Study of 1 John

7:00 PM

(Continued from page 1)

over His kingdom ... even forever” (Isaiah 9:6-7). Jesus the Son of Mary is that Child (Luke 1:30-33). He lived under Roman rule (Luke 2:1-7). When He was raised from the dead He sat upon the throne of David (Acts 2:29-31). He is now “the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:13-16). When God raised Christ from the dead, He “seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come” (Ephesians 1:15-23). Thus, in this epoch, the New Testament age, the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Christ are one and the same (Ephesians 5:5). This kingdom is also known as the kingdom of heaven (cf. Matthew 13:10-11; Luke 8:9-10).

The kingdom in this sense is the church of Christ. When Christ promised to build His church, He promised to give the apostle Peter “the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19). He didn’t build one spiritual building and give Peter the keys to another. The church is the kingdom. In coming to the “general assembly and church of the firstborn” (Hebrews 12:22-23), we “are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken” (Hebrews 12:28).

When people believe and obey the gospel, the Lord adds them to His church (Acts 2:36-41, 47). The kingdom of God is

within them (Luke 17:20-21), i.e., God through Christ rules in their hearts, and they are in His kingdom (Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9).

Heaven

But there is a fourth sense in which the phrase “the kingdom of God” is used. The saved will inherit the kingdom, eternal life in heaven (Matthew 25:34, 46; 1 Peter 1:3-5). Thus, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22; cf. 2 Peter 1:10-11). Then, “death will be swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:50-54).

Conclusion

Thus, there are four senses in which Scripture uses the phrase “kingdom of God”: the eternal, universal rule of God, Old Testament, national Israel, the church of Christ, and the heavenly home. If we are to inherit the heavenly kingdom, we must submit to the rule of Christ by faith and obedience. We must be born again by being baptized into Christ (John 3:3,5), become partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:2-11), and endure many tribulations (Acts 14:22). Are you an heir of the kingdom?

—[What Is The Kingdom Of God? | Highway 5 South Church of Christ \(christstheway.com\)](#)

Luke 9:62

"No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."



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!

A warm and friendly welcome awaits!

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GRATITUDE—BE THANKFUL *By Kevin Cauley*

Among the many attitudes discussed in the New Testament is gratitude. It isn't just a good idea, though; it's God's command. Colossians 3:15 says, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." Not too many years ago, I had a debate with an atheist. He held to an ethical system called utilitarianism. His philosophy was that if something was useful for getting along in society then you should do it. This is how he rationalized his behavior including saying "Thank you," to other people. He wasn't genuinely thankful to others when they did something helpful to him, he was just saying the words because they were useful to him in getting along in society. Such is not the attitude that we are to have toward God's word. It is true that practicing God's word will help us get along with others, but that is a blessing that results from believing in God and His word, not the rationale for our practicing it.

And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Sometimes I wonder if we haven't adopted this philosophy doing things simply because they are useful instead of doing them to please God regardless of whether they are useful or not. Truly giving thanks is one of these things. Do we say "thank you" to those closest to us? Do we genuinely thank those who help us? Do we recognize the graciousness of others when they do something for our benefit by telling them "thank you?" How many of us, instead of asking God for one thing or another, spend time in prayer just thanking Him? We are not thankful enough, and we need to be a thankful people. May God help us to have the highest of motives when we say, "thank you," and not take things for granted.

—[Gratitude - Be Thankful - Church of Christ Articles](#)



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