



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 38

December 20 2020

Number 51

Schedule of Services

- 10:00 AM
Sunday
Worship
- 7:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Study

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, and Ronnie Gootam
McKenzie, TN—Paul Jones

Location

- Green Plain Church of Christ
3980 Murray Paris Road
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone: (270) 492-8206
- Email: [greenplain@
greenplainchurchofchrist.org](mailto:greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

HIS BIRTH OR HIS DEATH?

By Jonnie Hutchison

Most enjoy the various traditions associated with “Christmas.” The decorations, the exchange of gifts, family gatherings, and holiday music produce feelings of joy and nostalgia. Children eagerly await the arrival of Santa and there is much excitement when they awake to find presents under the tree.

Most religious people view “Christmas” as a holy day dedicated to celebrating the birth of Jesus. “Christmas pageants” depicting the events surrounding the birth of Jesus are conducted and nativity scenes decorate the yards of church buildings. Special worship services are conducted accompanied by special “Christmas” music.

No one who believes the Bible would deny the importance and significance of the birth of Jesus Christ. His birth was a part of God’s plan to save man from sin. *“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as*

sons” (Galatians 4:4-5). His birth was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Isaiah 7:14) and its fulfillment recorded in the New Testament (Matthew 1:23). As prophesied, His conception in the womb of His virgin mother was miraculous (Matthew 1:18-21). Yet, even the announcement of his birth contained a reference to His death in the words, *“He shall save His people from their sins.”* The fact is that Jesus was born into this world in order to die for the sins of the world and that is where God places the emphasis, upon His death.

God **has not** set aside a special “holy day” to celebrate the birth of Jesus. He has not even revealed the date Jesus was born. The religious celebration of “Christmas” is the invention of men, not God. However, God **has** set aside a day to remember **Jesus’ death**. That day is Sunday, the first day of the week. Each Sunday Christians gather together to remember the death of Jesus in partaking of the Lord’s Supper which He instituted for that very purpose (Matthew 26:26

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Remember Faye Travis (now home), Peggy Jarvis, Rex Enoch, Mary Crutchfield, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Jim Fielder, Griselda Adams, Larry Enoch, Carolyn Byars, Mary and Jim Lowrie, and Mary and Jesse Vincent.

Family and Friends: Helen Tidwell, Jenne Pool, Teresa Tacker, Betty Pond, Bryan White, Meredith Enoch, Kenneth Mizell, , Janice Canter, , Andrea Phillips, Donald and Dorothy Cook, Sandra Cook Downs, Kevin Smith, Walter Lee Steely, and Dale Pentecost.

- **OUR SYMPATHY** is extended to the family of Carol Pigg at her passing this past week. Carol was the sister-in-law of James and Jan.
- **WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY:** It was great to see several who have been absent due to illness back with us in worship last Sunday. We are thankful God has answered prayer. We will continue meeting each Sunday morning at 10:00 am for worship and on Wednesday at 7:00 pm for Bible study.
- **PANTRY ITEMS December 2020: 6—Peanut Butter; 13—Mixed Vegetables; 20—Canned Meats; 27—Creamed Corn.** 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 2020 Anniversaries:** 17—Mary & Jesse Vincent; 22—Marjorie & Hayes Grady. **Birthdays:** 5—Nathan Hale; 7—Mike Ernstberger; 9—Debbie Ernstberger; 12—Wanda Barrett (Murray Paris RD); 12—Jesse Vincent; 14—Faye Travis; 18—Wanda Barrett (Green Plain RD); 16—Cody Canter; 17—Marie Wyatt; 18—Rex Enoch; 21—Larry Enoch; If we have left anyone out please let us know.
- We offer **FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES** through the mail. Enroll on our website or send your name and return mailing address to the address on the first page of this bulletin. You may also call 270-978-7569 or you may email us at greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org.

ONLINE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Gospel Broadcasting Network
<https://gbntv.org/>

World Video Bible School
<https://store.wvbs.org/wvbs-splashpage.html>

A Bible Answer
<https://abibleanswertv.org/>

Good News Today
<http://gnttv.org/>

In Search of the Lord's Way
<http://searchtv.org/>



BIBLE RESEARCH QUESTION

This Week: What event did Paul say to the church in Rome “declared” Jesus “to be the Son of God with power?”

Last Week: What was the sign or figurehead of the Alexandrian ship on which Paul sailed to Rome?

Answer: The figurehead was the “Twin Brothers” (Acts 28:11).

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-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
*“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death** till He comes”* (1 Corinthians 11:26).

The Bible tells us, *“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). Nothing can be done “in the name of the Lord Jesus”

unless He has ordained and authorized it. He has neither ordained nor authorized a religious celibatarian of His birth called “Christmas”, but He has ordained and authorized the remembrance of His death each first day of the week. May God help us to recognize that He does not authorize by what He has not said, but by what He has said in His Word. Let us respect the silence of the scriptures and to speak only as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11).

WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DOES NOT OBSERVE CHRISTMAS

Some years ago I received a letter from a listener to the weekly radio program who asked me to explain why the church of Christ does not observe Christmas. This sermon is the answer I gave to that question.

I realize that there are many people in the world who regard members of the church of Christ as being very narrow-minded in our refusal to join with the denominational world in the observance of that holiday which was formerly known as Christ Mass Day, but is now generally abbreviated to Christmas Day. The question is often asked of us, “Do you folks not believe in the Bible account of the birth of Jesus?” When we reply that we do indeed believe every word of that divine record, we are then asked this question: “Do you not believe that the birth of Jesus is an event worth remembering?” There are several reasons why the church of Christ does not observe Christmas, and so I wish to mention some of them.

THERE IS NO DIVINE COMMAND OR PRECEPT

We believe that we must have a divine command or precept for all that we do in religion. We believe that we are not authorized to observe religious holidays that are not mentioned in the Bible for Christians to observe. There is no record in the Bible that any Christian ever observed a holiday in the memory of the birth of Christ. Although the Bible does tell us of the activities of the early church, it gives no hint that anyone in apostolic times thought of declaring a holiday to celebrate the birth of Christ, or that God wanted it to be celebrated. In fact, the Encyclopedia Britannica reveals that it was a good many years after the death of Jesus before a certain Pope conceived

the idea of having a Mass to celebrate the birth of the Savior. To learn of the beginning of Christmas, we must go to the encyclopedia rather than the Bible, for the Bible is silent about the subject. Reading further in the encyclopedia we learn that the Pope who first inaugurated Christmas said, “We have a Mass for every saint, but there is no Mass for Christ.” He decreed that henceforth the 25th day of December each year would be observed as Christ Mass Day. For many years, in fact for many centuries, Christmas was strictly a Catholic holiday, but when various Protestant churches came into being, one by one they borrowed that holiday.

WE MUST SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD

The church of Christ does not observe Christmas because of the apostle Peter's statement in I Peter 4:11, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.” We cannot speak as the oracles of God and speak of Christmas. Why? Because the oracles of God are silent about such a holiday. If the New Testament spoke of Christmas and we had the teaching that Christians in New Testament times observed that holiday, the church of Christ would do so now.

IS DECEMBER 25TH CHRIST'S BIRTH DAY?

I submit to you that a fourth reason why the church of Christ does not observe and celebrate Christmas is that no one knows that Jesus was born on the 25th of December. That particular day and month was arbitrarily selected by the Pope who inau-

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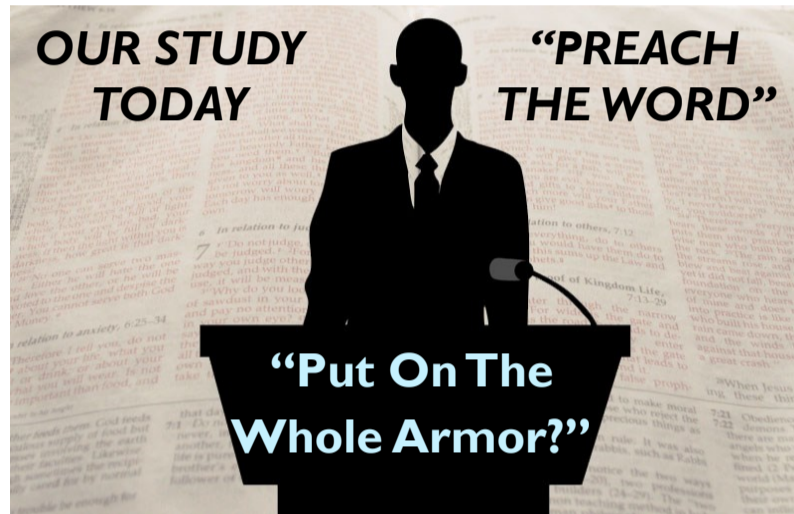
COME VISIT WITH US

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!
A warm and friendly welcome awaits!

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**OUR STUDY
TODAY**

**“PREACH
THE WORD”**



**GOSPEL BROADCASTING
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gured that holiday. Most Bible scholars believe that Christ was really born in the summer time, but the very fact that God was not pleased to reveal through His word the day or the month in which His Son was born is evidence that he did not expect us to reverence that day.

IT IS A CATHOLIC HOLIDAY

I have already mentioned that originally Christmas was called Christ Mass Day, having been inaugurated by the Pope. Protestant churches borrowed this day from the Catholic church. The church of Christ has never borrowed it. Let me say in this connection that nearly everything that it practiced in many Protestant churches has been borrowed from the Catholic church. Instrumental music, infant baptism, sprinkling, Christmas and Easter Day observance are just a few of the inventions of Catholicism which have been borrowed by Protestants. A number of years ago a priest friend of brother Carl Finley remarked that it was amusing to see Protestants borrow such things as Christmas and infant baptism from the Catholics and try to prove that the Bible mentions and commands such things. He added, “We practice them because our church councils decided that we should do so. We do not

believe that the Bible mentions or suggests these things.” He explained that the Catholic church differs from many other churches in that it does not believe that it is necessary to prove by the Bible all things that they do. I think this priest had a greater respect for the church of Christ after learning that we do not take this inconsistent position of being opposed to Catholicism, but at the same time imitating and borrowing from these things invented by Catholicism, of which Christmas is one.

Should Christians observe Christmas? Religiously no! As a family, if they so desire. I think Paul deals with this in Romans 14:5-6, “One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let each man be fully assured in his own mind.” From this verse I can see nothing wrong with a family setting aside Christmas Day as a day to exchange gifts with friends and family. The wrong comes when we try to make it a religious festival and bind its observance upon others without authority from the scriptures. I am of the firm opinion that it should have no place in the church for which Jesus died.

—[WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DOES NOT OBSERVE CHRISTMAS \(Ecumenical\) \(freerepublic.com\)](#)