



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 43

December 21, 2025

Number 46

## 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  
270-293-7027
- James Pigg  
270-293-2319

### Deacons

- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

### Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison  
270-978-7569

### Location

- Green Plain  
Church of Christ  
3980 Murray Paris  
RD  
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone:  
(270) 492-8206
- Email:  
greenplaincoc  
@gmail.com

### Web Site

- greenplain-  
churchofchrist.org

## HIS BIRTH OR HIS DEATH? *By Jonnie Hutchison*

The events surrounding the conception and birth of Jesus the Christ were wonderful and miraculous. As we read of those events, we are impressed with the fact of the Deity of the one called "Immanuel" (God with us—Isa. 7:14; Matthew 1:23). We know that the Son of God left the glory of heaven and took upon Himself the form of man in order to offer the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. Phil 2:8-9 reads, "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Much of the religious world places a special emphasis on the birth of Jesus once each year. The day is called "Christmas" (an abbreviated form "Christ Mass") which is of Roman Catholic origin. Christmas is regarded as a holy day set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This special celebration did not originate with God. We do not read about it in the Bible. There is no command, no example, no reference to such a celebration or holy day in scripture. Think about this, if God desired us to celebrate the birth of

Jesus as a holy day, why did He not reveal the date of Jesus' birth? History shows that December 25th was arbitrarily chosen by the Roman Catholic Church to coincide with certain pagan festivals.

While the events recorded of the conception and birth of Jesus are vitally important, that is not the main focus throughout the New Testament. The main focus is upon the death of Jesus. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that who ever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus did not emphasize his birth but His then coming death to His disciples (Matthew 16:21). The apostles did not emphasize the birth of Jesus, but His death in their preaching of the gospel (Acts 23:6; 4:10). Paul wrote, "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor 2:2).

Unlike the birth of Jesus, God has given us the day that we are to remember the death of our Lord. The first century church met each first day of the week to partake of the Lord's Supper in

(Continued on page 3)

**NEWS AND NOTES**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek), Dave & Ann Thompson (Hickory Woods), Joan Lathrop, Wanda Barrett, Roy and Marie Wyatt, Mary and Jesse Vincent, Jimmy Cochran and Carolyn Byers.

**Family and Friends:** Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Larry and Rose Wyatt, ,Patrice Wyatt, Jackie Herndon, Janice Canter, Peyton Mays, Patricia Dowdy and Darren Mays.

**PANTRY ITEMS December 2025:** 7-Peas; 14-Carrots; 21-Green Beans; 28-Corn, All items must be **non-perishable or canned**.

**December 2025; Anniversaries:** 17-Mary & Jesse Vincent; **BIRTHDAYS:** 7-Mike Ernstberger; 9-Debbie Ernstberger; 12-Wanda Cochran ; 12-Jesse Vincent; 17-Marie Wyatt; 18-Wanda Barrett.

**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. This study can be conducted in your home or in our building. You may call 270-978-7569 or write us at Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD, Hazel, KY 42049.

**ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.** Send your name, complete mailing address and phone number to Green Plain Church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris Rd, Hazel, KY 42049 or enroll online on our webpage. This is a great way to increase your Bible knowledge.

**THOSE TO SERVE December 2025**

Announcements: Mike

Lord’s Table AM: James and Chad

Lord’s Table PM: 7-Chad; 14-James; 21-Chad;  
28-James

Opening Prayer AM: 7-Bobby; 14-Jonnie; 21-Jimmy;  
28-Perry

Closing Prayer AM: 7-Russell; 14-Don; 21-Jesse  
28-Roy

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

Count Contribution: James and Chad

**GOSPEL  
BROADCASTING  
NETWORK**

<https://gbntv.org>  
**Or watch on  
Youtube.com**

**Live Broadcast &  
Free Videos  
on Demand**

**“Answering the Error”  
“Counterpoint”  
“Preaching the Gospel”  
“The authentic Christian”  
And many more!**

(Continued from page 1)

remembrance of His death (Acts 20:7). The inspired Paul instructed the church in Corinth, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death** till He comes” (1 Cor 11:26).

Faithful churches of Christ do not celebrate the birth of Jesus as a religious holy

day for one simple reason—we can find no authority in scripture for doing so—NO COMMAND, NO APPROVED EXAMPLE, NO INFERENCE! However, we have all three of these that authorize placing the main emphasis upon our Lord's death. Let us make sure that we only practice in religion what is authorized in the Word of God.

EXCERPTS FROM SECULAR WRITINGS ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF “CHRISTMAS”

**World Book Encyclopedia:** “Bishop Liberious of Rome in 354 A.D. ordered that December 25th be adopted as the birth date of Christ.”

**Encyclopedia Britannica:** “Liberius gave this reason for having “Christmas”: ‘We have a Mass for every Saint, but there is no Mass for Christ’.”

**The New Chaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge:** “The pagan festival (Brumalia, Dec. 25) with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit or in manner. Christian preachers of the West and the nearer East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival. Yet the festival rapidly gained acceptance and became at last so firmly established that even the Protestant revolution of the sixteenth century was not able to dislodge it.”

In view of the statements above brother Jack McNeil makes this observation,

“Our denominational friends say, with the best of intentions, “Let's put Christ back into Christmas!” However, they need to realize that Christ was never in Christmas. And so it is that at this time of the year we must ask ourselves, “Do we want to be the church that one reads of in the New Testament? Do we want to be like that God-fearing, Bible believing, Bible teaching, speaking where the Bible speaks – silent where the Bible is silent – church that Jesus died to save? Or do we want to be like the rest of the world around us and celebrate Christmas as a religious holiday?” I believe that if we were to observe “Christmas” as a religious holiday, we would then be guilty of the same kind of vain religion that the Jesus spoke of in Mat. 15:7-9.”

—For the complete article visit [Christmas? - Church of Christ Articles](#)

Editor's Note: Both of the articles above address the **religious observance of Christmas**. Observance of “Christmas” as a secular or national holiday is a different matter. While we do not want to leave any false impressions, getting together with family, exchanging gifts, etc. falls into the realm of

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

opinion, not doctrine. We can all enjoy the so-called "Christmas Season" **without the religious observances** commonly associated with it. With that in mind we wish each one a very happy holiday!

**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!

**THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

Ephesians 3:14-19 "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— **to know the love of Christ** which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

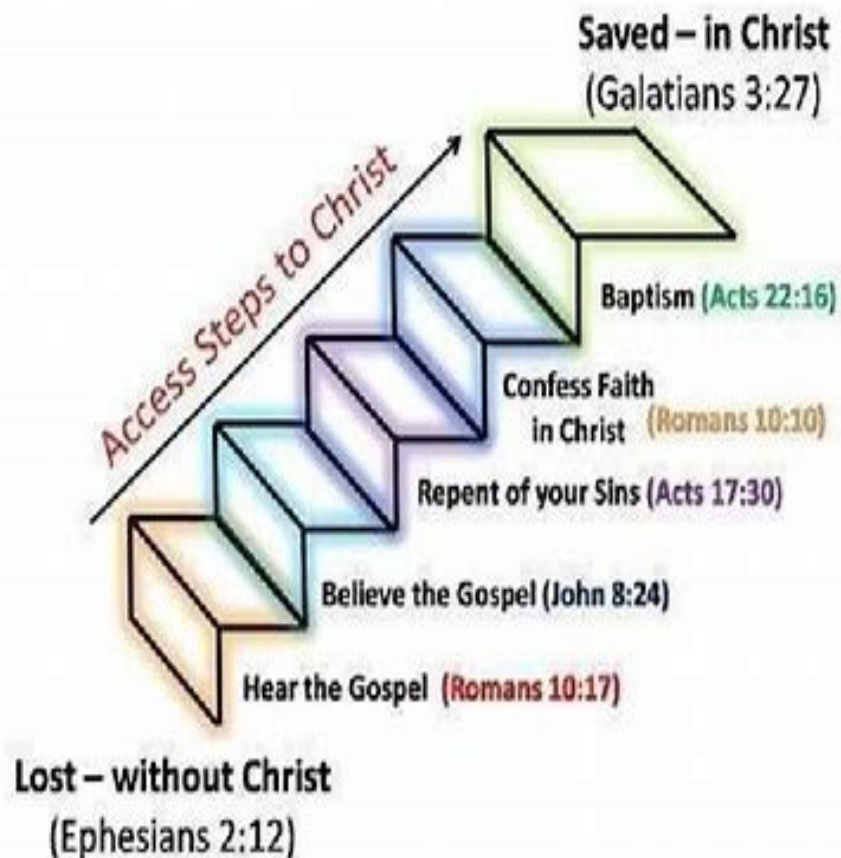
## Bible Study Opportunities

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM**  
**"A Study of Mark"**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:50 AM**  
**"What the future Holds?"**

**SUNDAY WORSIP 2:00 PM**  
**To Be Announced**

**Wednesday 7:00 PM**  
**"A Study of I Kings"**



A Bi-Biweekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts