



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

December 22, 2024

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

- 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

PREACHING THE CRUCIFIED JESUS

By Jonnie Hutchison

In 1 Corinthians 1:22-24 the inspired apostle Paul wrote, *“For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”* The death of Jesus on a Roman cross is indeed a “stumbling block” and “foolishness” to many. Yet, the Holy Spirit affirms that to those who have answered the call of the gospel and have been added by the Lord to His church, the crucifixion of Jesus demonstrates both the power and the wisdom of God (2 Thessalonians 2:14; Acts 2:47).

The power of the cross of Jesus is evident in the fact that His blood shed on that cross provides for the forgiveness of sin. 1 Peter 1:18-19 reads, *“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* Without the blood of Jesus,

salvation from sin is impossible (See Hebrews 9:22). In God’s plan for man’s salvation from sin, the crucifixion of Jesus was necessary to provide forgiveness of sin. To many, this remains an obstacle and foolishness. After all, how can the blood of a Galilean carpenter crucified over 2,000 years ago cleanse the sins of anyone today? But He was not just a Galilean carpenter, **He is the Son of God!**

God in His great wisdom originated a plan that seems foolish to so many, but the very fact of it testifies to its divine origin. No human would originate such a perfect plan. No human would willingly sacrifice his own child to save the rest of us. But God, in His wisdom and through His power did. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

Dear reader, has the precious blood of Jesus cleansed your sins? God’s plan is for you to believe in Jesus (John 8:24),

(Continued on page 2)

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek), Hayes Grady is back at Raymond's home. Continue to pray for Marie Wyatt, Jackie and Don Spiceland, Dave & Ann Thompson, and Joan Lathrop .

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison (home), Ted Clark, Larry and Rose Wyatt, Tonya Morris, and Teri Mercer.

FROM THE ELDERS: The congregation will meet on Wednesday, December 25th as usual for Bible classes as well as the following Wednesday, January 1st.

HOLIDAY GATHERING: All are invited to the home of Jan and James following our evening services today to enjoy a period of fellowship and food. Thanks Jan and James!

TRY ITEMS December 2024: 1- Peanut Butter; 8-Jelly or Jam; 15-Fruit Juice; 22-Toliet Tissue; 28-Paper Towels. All items must be **non-perishable or canned**.

December 2024; Anniversaries: 117-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.

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 enroll online on our webpage. This is a great way to increase your Bible knowledge. Enroll Today!



VISIT OUR YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK PAGES. Search for Green Plain church of Christ to find videos of this years Gospel Meetings with Bradley Smith (Spring 2024) and John Sales (fall 2024).



ON THE BULLETIN BOARD: Please read the letter from the Newport church of Christ located on the bulletin board concerning the contributions sent from the congregation here to help those who were devastated by the recent hurricane and flooding in North Carolina and Tennessee.

(Continued from page 1)

repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess your faith in Christ (Acts 8:37), and to be baptized into Christ, there to reach his blood to wash away your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-6). Christ crucified: What is it to YOU? Is it a stumbling block or foolish-

ness, or is it God's wisdom and power?

*“But God forbid that I should boast except in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world has been **crucified** to me, and I to the world” (Galatians 6:14).*

THE RESTORATION PLEA *By Victor Eskew*

The Restoration Movement of the 1800s grew out of disgust for religious division and a love for the truth of the gospel of Christ. Men longed for the day when all would wear the name "Christian" only and pledge allegiance to the New Testament as the sole standard of faith and practice. They yearned for the time when individuals would unite in one body, the precious church of Jesus Christ.

From this movement many slogans came forth. The slogans were designed to implant crucial truths into the hearts of the listeners. "Speak where the Bible speaks, and remain silent where the Bible is silent" was one of these slogans. This was an amplification of Peter's words found in [I Peter 4:11](#). "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." Another slogan was: "Let's call Bible things by Bible names, and let's do Bible things in Bible ways."

One of the most popular slogans of the Restoration Movement was:

In matters of doctrine, unity.
In matters of opinion, liberty.
In all things, love.

The preachers of the Restoration Movement recognized two major areas, doctrine and opinion. Doctrine involves the teachings of the New Testament. Paul wrote: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine..." ([II Tim. 3:16-17](#)). Doctrine cannot be compromised. It must be adhered to at all times. If all would commit to this teaching, unity would prevail. Note: It is wrong to transform the teachings of the gospel into matters of opinion. When individuals want to change the doctrine of Christ, they are to be met with opposition ([1 Tim. 1:3-5](#)). If they refuse to adhere to the truth of God's Word, they are

to be marked and avoided. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them" ([Rom. 16:17](#)).

However, the leaders of the Restoration Movement realized that matters of opinion exist as well. In these, they asked for liberty. The practice of circumcision was a matter of opinion/option in the New Testament church. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation" ([Gal. 6:15](#)). It is interesting to study the fact that Paul had Timothy circumcised, but he did not have Titus circumcised. The eating of meats was also a matter of opinion in the first century. "But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse" ([I Cor. 8:8](#)). Again, these matters were optional. In these things, liberty needed to prevail.

It was wrong to make matters of option matters of doctrine. Some did this in the first century. Paul declared that those who bound where God has not bound had departed from the faith. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer" ([I Tim. 4:1-5](#)).

The last section of the slogan under consideration is: "In all things, love." This love

(Continued on page 4)

is one that seeks the best interest of another. [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#) reveals the importance of love. Without it, nothing else matters. “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and have all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.”

In doctrine, unity. In option, liberty. In all things, love. This plea is just as valid today as it was when it was first penned. May every member of the body of Christ give diligence to distinguish between doctrine and opinion. In doctrine, let us hold fast thereunto with unity in mind. In option, let's grant liberty to our brethren. Then, let's allow love to prevail in all things.

-Oceanside church of Christ
Jacksonville, FL.

THOSE TO SERVE December 2024

Announcements: Mike E.

Lord's Table AM James & Chad

Lord's Table PM: 1-Chad; 8-James; 15-Chad;
22-James; 29-Chad

Opening Prayer AM: 1-Jonnie; 8-Bobby;
15-Mike; 22-Perry; 29-Russell

Closing Prayer AM: 1-Roy; 8-Dave; 15-Jesse;
22-Jr.; 29-Jimmy C.

Lead Songs: Sunday AM-Perry; Sunday PM-Mike;
Wednesday-Chad

Count Contribution: James and Chad

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
“A Study of Matthew”

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 AM
“The Birth and Death of Jesus”

SUNDAY WORSIP 6:00 PM
“The Great Commendation”

Wednesday 7:00 PM
“A Study of Ecclesiastes”



A Bi-Biweekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts