



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 40

December 25, 2022

Number 52

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

THE PASSING YEARS

By Jonnie Hutchison

God never intended for we humans to live forever upon this earth. Thus, the time of our lives is limited. Psalms 90:10 reads, *“The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”*

Time passes so quickly and the brevity of life becomes more apparent with each passing year. The Bible describes life in the inspired words of James 4:14, *“For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”* The older this writer gets the more he realizes that each passing year brings him closer to eternity. That makes the scriptures admonition even more relevant as the inspired Paul wrote in Romans 13:11 *“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”*

As each year passes it brings an opportunity to look back and examine oneself. This examination involves both the positive

things accomplished as well as the negative things and failure to properly use one’s limited time. For the Bible tells us to be *“redeeming the time, because the days are evil”* (Ephesians 5:16). There is a proper use of our time and an improper use of our time. The best use of one’s time is in living for God, doing His will, and making preparation for an eternity with Him in heaven.

As this year passes look back and ask yourself, did I use the time my loving God granted me in the way He wanted? Is there anything that I need to do differently in the up coming New Year? Probably each honest reader can see things that need to be changed or improved for the better in his or her life. With God’s help and guidance each can make whatever change is necessary.

If God grants you life in 2023 decide now that you will live according to His will. That you will put Him first in your life. That you will do your best to set an example of faithfulness and thereby open doors to bring others to Christ. As Jesus said, *“Seek*

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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.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Betty Moss, the niece of Sue Hall, and her family at the passing of her son David Moss his past week. Please pray for this family.

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
gbntv.org**

**A BIBLE ANSWER
Available at
abibleanswertv.org
& on YouTube**
*A panel of gospel preachers
answers your Bible
questions*

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first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.....” (Matthew 6:33a).

Inspiration directs us to **“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that**

Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5). Use the closing days of 2022 to do your self-examination so that you can begin the New Year with renewed dedication to serving your Creator according to His will.

WE NEED MORE LIGHT *By Todd Houston*

“For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:5-6).

If you have ever stubbed a toe while walking through a dark home at night, you likely have great appreciation for light. Without light, we cannot see where we are going or what obstacles are in our way. Since the advent of electricity and the light bulb, dispelling the darkness in our homes and such has become quite convenient. Prior to this development, a great deal more effort was required as one had to light a lamp or candle, etc. In spiritual matters, we need light to find our way also. Fortunately, God has provided that light in the pages of the Bible (Psa. 119:105). The Christ is the full embodiment of the light of God (Isaiah 9:2; John 1:4, 9; 8:12; 2 Corinthians 4:6). However, since Jesus left the earth, His light is to be broadcast by His people as we teach His word to any available audience (John 9:5; Matthew 5:14-16; 28:18-20).

This is where we need all hands on deck. As Jesus said, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest...” (Luke 10:2). Up-

on the completion of His earthly ministry, Jesus sent out laborers to the harvest, and that task has been handed down through the ages by the teaching and training of others to carry on that work (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2). Sadly, the laborers are becoming fewer and fewer. As consumerism and other distractions have become our greatest ambitions as a culture, time for doing His bidding has steadily fallen down the list of priorities. So, what are we to do?

First, we must recognize the necessity of teaching. Without being taught, no one comes to Jesus (John 6:44-45). If the gospel is not heard, people cannot come to faith (Romans 10:13-17). Without faith, it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). More could be said on this, but at the end of the day, the only way a person can come to possess saving faith is if they hear the word of God. For most, that only occurs when they hear it from a Christian as few find it on their own.

Second, we must embrace the task He gave us. There are many ways to carry out this work. We parents must raise our children in a thoroughly God-centered environment (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 2:15). For the rest, we may be the only Christian influence our family members,

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friends, and coworkers encounter. This places the responsibility to do God's bidding on each of us (Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:14-16). Within the church, we need more teachers in our Bible school program. They say, "As the Bible school program goes, so goes the church." This is a key factor in the health and vitality of a congregation. Often our teachers never get a break because there are not enough teachers to fill the needs. This can be detrimental to the overall spiritual health of the teacher as they never get to be taught in Bible class settings. All these efforts require us to step out of our comfort zones, which brings us to our third step in becoming lights.

We must prepare ourselves daily to guide the erring into the light. The most common reason Christians refrain from evangelistic efforts is the fear of not having the answers. This is not uncommon, but the only solution is to prepare ourselves. The primary purpose of the leadership in the church is to prepare each member for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 2:2). However, elders, preachers, Bible school teachers, etc. can only present these truths to the church. The results are dependent on the effort of the hearers (2 Timothy 2:15). Remember, some lost soul is waiting for you to teach them the gospel. Will you be their light?

—[We Need More Light](#) — [Elizabethton Church of Christ](#)

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Bible Study OPPORTUNITIES



**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE
 CLASS 10:00 AM**
"The Book of Acts"

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45
"The Way, the Truth & the Life"

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 6:00
"You Must Be Born Again"
John 3:1-13

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

[Around the Spiritual Table - PODash](#)

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