



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 39

December 26, 2021

Number 50

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

AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR BY JONNIE HUTCHISON

As this year comes to a close and the New Year is upon us we are presented with an opportunity for each of us to review and reflect upon this past year and to anticipate the year of 2022. I don't know about you but as I grow older (70 years now), the years seem to pass increasingly faster. No wonder the Bible describes life as *"a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away"* (James 4:14b).

When you look back at this past year what do you see? Yes, time passed quickly, but what did you do with it? How did you use your precious but fleeting time? How much time did you spend in serving God? How often did you pray? Did you assemble regularly with the church to worship God? Did you give of your time to help those in need, to visit the sick, to comfort those in sorrow and to strengthen the weak? Did you spend time in

the personal study of God's Word? How much of your time was devoted to using your abilities and opportunities to taking the gospel to the lost? The Bible tells us to be *"redeeming the time because the days are evil"* (Eph. 5:16).

In this past year, did you fulfill your God-given responsibilities to your spouse and to your children? Did you remain faithful to your spouse? Did you teach your children about God train them according to His will? (Eph. 5:22-25; 6:1-2).

When you reflect on this past year did you leave God completely out of your life? Did you live only for yourself? Did you mistreat your spouse and/or children by failing to provide for either their spiritual, emotional or physical needs? Did you steal, lie, hate, or possess malice? Was there anything missing in your life? Did

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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, Jesse and Mary Vincent. Vickie Canter will be receiving treatment in Louisville followed by radiation and Chemo treatments at Murray. Please pray that these treatments will be successful.

Family and Friends: Teresa Tacker, Bryan White, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt (released from the hospital), 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.

- **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.
- **“Do not ask GOD what He can do for you, but ask GOD what YOU can do for Him.”**

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— ***“What Jesus Teaches Us About Humility”***

6 pm— To Be Announced

Wednesday Bible Class
A Study of 1 John

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you serve God or the devil? You can not serve both at the same time (Matthew 16:24).

As you reflect on this past year do you see any room for improvement? Do you see things that need to be changed to make this next year better for you and for those over whom you have an influence? If we are honest with God and with ourselves, each of us will answer "yes, there is room from improvement. There are things I need to change." However, simply acknowledging these needed changes without doing anything about them will accomplish nothing. We must

be "*doers of the Word and not hearers only*" (James 1:22).

Dear reader, look back and see what you need to change in your life. Then use this New Year as an opportunity to make those changes, conforming to the will of God, living a life of faithful service to the Lord and making the necessary preparation to exist eternally with Him in heaven. If you do, you will find that you are living a happier, more fulfilling and hopeful life. May God bless you in the New Year with "*the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, {which} will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" (Philippians 4:7)

A NEW YEAR, A NEW BEGINNING By Gary L. Hutchens

As a very young child it seemed as though a year was almost an interminable period of time. The school year, especially, seemed as though it would never end. Through my teen years time continued to drag. At eighteen or nineteen it seemed as though I would never get to be twenty one, a full fledged *legal adult*. That was something of a contradiction to me since, by the time I turned twenty one, I had already been married for two and one half years, been working and operating in an adult world for three years and had been in military service for over two years. But once I became legal the years seemed to click off ever more quickly.

Anymore, the expression "*time flies*" seems like an understatement.

Some of that sense may be due to the continuing emphasis that our culture places upon speed. We're always seeking ways to do things faster. However, as we cut down production time, we simply fill the time we save with more tasks. As we accomplish more, we're always seeking ways to accomplish more yet, a never ending cycle that seems to wind itself around our necks in an ever tightening noose.

But time is moving quickly, and each passing year brings each of us closer to the day when our personal time on this earth will be over. More important, each day brings us closer to that day of reckoning when God will hold all mankind accountable for the way they have

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COME VISIT WITH US

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lived their lives and bring time, as this world knows it, to an abrupt end.

With the passing of time I've come to realize that the real basis of life does not consist in how many jobs we get done, how many promotions we accumulate, how much money we save or how many things we possess. What gives life meaning is our spiritual identity. We're created in God's image. He has an eternal home with Him prepared for us. Getting there, and hopefully taking others with us, is what life is all about. Serving God here is tied to our getting there. Teaching others this truth is part of serving God here. The devil has been very good at getting people to focus only on this life and away from God.

As the Lord's church, if we're not careful we can also get caught up in the material side of life. Our facilities are important, but they're only a means to an end, providing a comfortable and

convenient setting in which to worship God, study His word and teach others the gospel. We need to focus on getting souls in the seats, people who need to hear the gospel. We need to reach out to them in effective, purposeful ways. We need to focus on our own need to be at services and on the importance of our children to be in Bible classes. We need to pray for, and seriously talk to, our brothers and sisters in Christ who either no longer attend or who attend sporadically.

Here we are at the beginning of another new year. Time is passing, getting shorter. We have work to do. Souls are at stake. Our souls may be at stake. There is precious little time left. Let us use this year wisely, squeeze out of it as much good as we can for the cause of Christ. Let us use our times in such a way as to be able, when our time is up, to feel good about the way we used it. Let us use this year and every year, first and foremost, to God's glory...



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