



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

December 31, 2023

Number 50

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
270-753-2108 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

GOD'S GIFT OF A NEW YEAR *By Jonnie Hutchison*

We have just completed the gift giving season and are now looking forward to the beginning of a New Year. For many of our readers, it is hard to imagine that we are entering into the year of **2024**. Life is indeed like “*a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away*” (James 4:13).

The book of James tells us, “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning*” (James 1:17). There is a very real sense in which one can properly say that each New Year is a good and perfect gift given to us by our God. With each New Year we are given another opportunity to accept God's gift of salvation and live our lives in preparation for eternal life in heaven (Ephesians 2:5-10; Titus 1:2). There can be no greater nor far-reaching decision than to obey the gospel of Christ and live faithful to His Word.

When Paul was near the end of his life he wrote, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing*” (2 Tim 4:7-8). Receiving the “**crown of righteousness**” (eternal life in heaven) is clearly dependent upon being actively involved in the spiritual battle against sin and Satan, faithfully running the spiritual race toward that eternal goal and keeping the faith through constant obedience to the will of God. With each New Year God gives us we should examine ourselves to make sure we are on track to receive that crown of righteousness (2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 6:4).

With these thoughts in mind, how will your use God's gift of a New Year? It is our prayer that you will choose to live whatever

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Hayes and Marjorie Grady, Marie Wyatt and Jim Lowrie.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Tommy Boggess, Kim Burrows, Lucetria Hutchison, and Ted Clark.

ADD TO YOUR DIRECTORY: Russell and Joan Lathrop 1707 Calloway Ave, Murray, KY 42071. Phone: 817-304-0006. We welcome the Lathrop's into our fellowship.

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.

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. Contact us to set up a time for our teachers to come into your home or meet at our building to begin this study.

PANTRY ITEMS December 2023: 3—Great Norther Beans; 10-Spinach 17-Carrots; 24-Canned Meats; 31— Mixed vegetables. All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

December 2023; Anniversaries: 17-Mary & Jesse Vincent; 22—Marjorie & Hayes Grady.

Birthdays: 7-Mike Ernstberger; 9-Debbie Ernstberger; 12-Wanda (Robert) Barrett; 12-Jesse Vincent; 16-Chad Canter; 17-Marie Wyatt; 18-Wanda (Alex) Barrett.

IT IS GOOD TO BE REMINDED OF THIS TRUTH: “For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content” (1 Tim 6:7-8)

THSE TO SERVE December 2023

Announcements: Mike Ernstberger

Table AM: James Pigg & Chad Canter

Table PM: 3-Chad; 10-James; 17-Chad; 24-James; 31-Chad

Opening Prayer AM: 3-Jonnie; 10-Perry; 17-Bobby; 24-Jim L. 31-Mike

Closing Prayer AM: 3-Roy; 10-Dave; 17-Brent; 24-Chad; 31-Jesse

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

Count Contribution: James & Chad

If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter



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BROADCASTING
NETWORK**

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time you have left in this world to serve your Lord. To make whatever changes you need to make and take whatever steps you need to take to make the year of **2024** your year of salvation. May God bless you in the New Year and may you realize just how precious His gift of a New Year is to you.

“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. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light” (Rom 13:11-12).

THE BEST IS YET TO COME By Jonnie Hutchison

It is recorded in the book of Job, *“Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble”* (Job 14:1). Job knew all about the troubles of life for he experienced some of the worst as instigated by none other than Satan himself (Job 1:8-12). Job suffered the loss of all of his possessions. His oxen, donkeys and camels were stolen and his servants killed. But even more devastating was the death of his seven sons and three daughters as a great wind collapsed the house they were in and it fell upon them. There is no doubt this caused Job extreme sorrow. He tore his robes, shaved his head, fell on the ground and, amazingly, offered worship to God saying, *“Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.”* In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.” (Job 1:21-22).

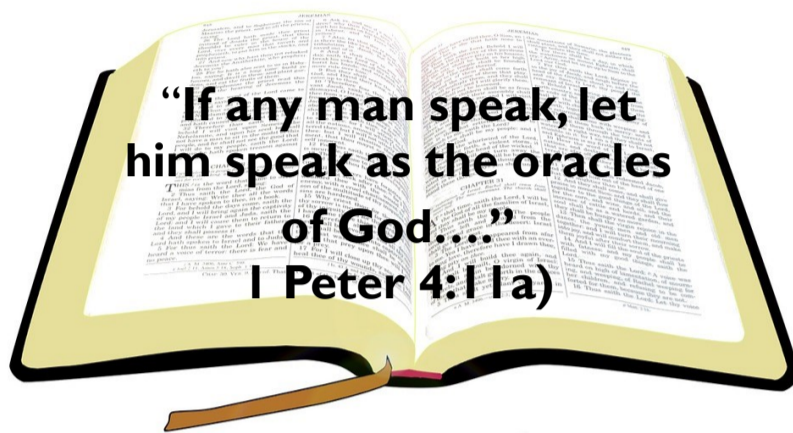
However, Satan was not through with Job. He was permitted to attack Job's personal health which he did by bringing upon Job extreme physical suffering and mental anguish. He was struck with boils from “the sole of his foot to the top of his head.” To add to his misery his wife said, *“Do you still hold to your integrity? Curse God and die.”* But Job answered. *“You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed ac-*

cept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.” (Job 2:1-10).

The record of Job teaches us many great lessons one of which is that the best for Job was yet to be. After all his extreme suffering and his failure to understand why, the book of Job concludes with the words, *“Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than its beginning....”* (Job 42:12ff). The key to receiving God's blessings for Job was his continued faithfulness and trust in God. The lesson for us? For the faithful child of God, the best is yet to be. The trials, tribulations and troubles of this life pale into insignificance when compared with what awaits God's faithful child. As Paul wrote, *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”* (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

We may not always understand why we suffer in this life, but this we do know — remaining faithful to God through the trials of life means **the best is yet to come!**

Jesus learned obedience by the things which He suffered
Hebrews 5:8



“WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?”

Hear the Word (**Rom 10:17**)

Believe the Jesus Christ is the Son of God (**John 8:24**)

Repent of sins (**Luke 13:3**)

Confess Christ (**Rom 10:10; Acts 8:37**)

Be Baptized (**Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16**)

Remain Faithful (**Rev 2:10; Acts 8:12-24**)

Heaven can be your home if you obey God! Heb 5:8-9
May We Help?

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
Study of Matthew

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45
“What About the War in Israel?” Ron Hutchison

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 2:00
5th Sunday Singing

Wednesday 7:00 pm
Study of Premillennialism



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts