



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 40

December 4, 2022

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;  
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](mailto:greenplaincoc@gmail.com)
- [greenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://greenplainchurchofchrist.org)

## RELATIVISM

By Ethan R. Longhenry

Modern life seems to be full of contradictions and tensions. People remember the tragedy of the wars of the twentieth century and the great horrors perpetuated by people who believed firmly in the “rightness” of their cause. People in the twenty-first century now seek to live in open, tolerant, and pluralistic societies, featuring people with differing belief systems and attitudes. Americans, in particular, have made much of personal freedom and have sanctified the individual’s ability to choose for him or herself.

Among the many casualties of these trends has been firm conviction regarding moral truths. Relativism seems to be the “non-standard standard” of our age. Some people are honest enough to confess that relativism has become their personal viewpoint: what is right and wrong to you is true for you but it does not have to be true for me. Others concede right and wrong when it comes to certain issues but tend to believe in greater variance on other issues, especially those relating to religion and sexuality. And these are true only for those who have

at least put in some time thinking about morality: for many others, especially among the younger generation, have not stopped long enough to think about their conduct in terms of morality. Unsurprisingly, over three-quarters of teenagers do not believe in absolute truth!

Relativism is an understandable product of our modern age. When people are encouraged to accept multiple different viewpoints as equally valid and the individual is made out to be the ultimate standard for all things, relativism in morality will follow. Our society has relegated morality to the level of “personal choice.” Why, then, should we be surprised when the most impressionable among us—the youth of society—believe the standard of right and wrong is based on our personal feelings, and set forth the false humility of refusing to judge other people’s moral standards since they believe it is all a matter of personal taste?

As long as people continue to accept the premises of modern society—the individual is the

(Continued on page 3)

## NEWS AND NOTES

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Green Plain members:* Peggy Jarvis, Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Mary Lowrie, Hayes and Margorie Grady, and Mary and Jesse Vincent.

**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, Jill Setter and Deb Ahart. Please continue to pray for our brethren in Ukraine. Remember those this congregation is supporting in India.

**ANNUAL ORNAMENT PARTY** for the ladies will be held on Saturday December 10, 2022 at 5:00 pm at the home of Jane Morris.

**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; 12—Wanda Barrett (Hazel); 12—Jesse Vincent; 16—Cody Canter; 17—Marie Wyatt; 18—Wanda Barrett (Murray); 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 such a study simply contact us in person, by phone at 270-978-7569 or email us at greenplaincoc@gmail.com. We will set up a time convenient for you for this interactive Bi-

### 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-Chad;  
27-James

#### 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*

(Continued from page 1)

standard, different people have differing views, and we should accept all of them—relativism will continue to flourish. Little wonder the phrase “extreme moral individualism” is often bandied about while describing our current environment. It is all up to the individual, and who is one person to judge another?

No society, however, can endure with a relative moral standard. No one really believes in relativism; it is a self-defeating proposition, since saying there is no absolute standard is itself an absolute statement. Furthermore, if someone steals from relativists, or violates their physical persons, or commits some outrage against their families, they will feel wronged and will most likely seek justice somehow. Therefore, it is clear they do not really believe “what is right for you is right for you” in every situation.

Relativism is a demonstration of the moral depravity following as a natural consequence of the rejection of our Creator as God and the attempt to replace Him with the individual as the standard (cf. [Romans 1:18-31](#)).

Left by ourselves, no one has the right to declare what is right or wrong. This does not lead to some anarchist utopia; it leads to chaos and the degeneration of society. What we see in our society is the best argument against relativism: it leads to concern merely for the self without proper consideration for others, and everyone suffers.

When we come to an understanding that it is not within us to direct our own steps and the way that seems right to us leads to death (cf. [Proverbs 14:12](#), [Jeremiah 10:23](#)), we can begin to see how we have gone terribly wrong. We should instead turn back to God our Creator who created us with an internal sense of right and wrong (cf. [Romans 2:13-16](#)). We can then learn humility and the value of living for the benefit of others, seeking their welfare, and not to please ourselves, as God has exemplified in Christ ([Romans 15:1-3](#)). Moral truths are too important for us to decide; we must instead accept God’s moral standards of right and wrong and seek to live according to them!

—[Relativism | The Voice 1.35 \(venicechurchofchrist.org\)](#)

### WHAT DO ELDERS DO?

- Make sure that the Truth is preached.
- Counsel those having spiritual problems.
- Encourage new converts.
- Decide the direction the church will follow.
- Teach Bible classes.
- Praise those who do good works.
- Pray for those they serve and the work.
- Become concerned when someone quits attending worship or gets weak.
- Visit the sick and shut-in.
- Try to help people who don’t want help.
- Investigate sticky and sensitive problems in order to keep the church pure.
- Cry with the broken-hearted.
- Model Christianity.
- Greet visitors and involve new members.
- Conduct home Bible Studies.
- Oversee preachers’ and deacons’ works.
- Hear the appeals of missionaries.
- Look for areas of new service.
- Work for a living.
- Try to restore the unfaithful and involve

(Continued on page 4)

*(Continued from page 3)*

the bystanders.

- Counsel young (and sometimes troubled) marriages.
- Study their Bibles for personal growth.
- Face special temptations/discouragements.
- Feel the weight of knowing they will give account of the souls they shepherd.
- Smile when their efforts pay off.
- Smile when they don't.
- Go on to the next problem.
- Train others to take their place.
- ...and 1001 other daily tasks

#### **WHAT SHOULD WE DO?**

- Love them. Pray for them.
- Get to know them personally.
- Back them in their work, fulfill their requests if there is no scriptural reason not to, and help carry out their plan of work.
- Speak a word of encouragement.
- Defend them if we hear them criticized.
- Be thankful that God gave them to us.

--adapted from Paul Sain

**TRUTH.FM**  
*Internet Radio*  
 Download App or  
 listen online  
<https://www.truth.fm/>



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

**SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45**  
*"What If Agrippa Had Become  
 A Christian?" Acts 26*

**SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 6:00**  
*"The First Followers of Jesus"*

**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](mailto: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](#)

[Around the Spiritual Table | Podcast on Spotify](#)



Scan with your  
**SMART DEVICE**

