



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

February 12, 2023

Number 6

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

A VALENTINE FROM GOD By Jonnie Hutchison

February 14th has been designated as “Valentine’s Day.” Valentine cards continue to be popular. School children exchange such cards with their teacher and classmates. Those who are dating exchange Valentines, as do those who are married. A standard dictionary defines a “valentine” as “a card sent, often anonymously, on St. Valentine’s Day (February 14) to a person one loves or is attracted to.”

Did you know that God has sent a valentine to you? God has given His valentine in the form of His written word in the Bible. It expresses His love for all of mankind. One of the most well-known passages in the New Testament declares, “**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). To offer His Son as a sacrifice for our sins shows just how much God loves every person. This should surprise no one for the Bible tells us that God is the source of love and He is love. 1 John 4:7-8 reads, “*Beloved, let us*

love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”



There is no doubt as to how God has shown His love for us. He has given us His plan for our salvation as revealed in His Word. But how do we express our love for God? The Bible answers that question in the words of Jesus.

“*He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me....*” (John 14:21a). John further affirms this truth in 1 John 5:3, “*For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*” The New Testament reveals what the Lord has commanded of us. We show our love for Him by obeying His commands. In receiving the forgiveness of sins Jesus commands faith in Him (John 8:24), repentance (Luke 13:3), confession of faith (Matthew 10:32-33), and immersion in water for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). One who loves God will

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NEWS AND NOTES

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

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Nat Evans, Larry and Rose Wyatt. Bonnie Byerly, Kenny Arrington, Tommy Boggess, Tish Clarke, and Bobby Ward. Please continue to pray for our brethren in Ukraine. Remember those this congregation is supporting in India.

OUR SYMPATHY is extended to Mary Lowrie and all the family of Joel White who passed from this life this past week.

PANTRY ITEMS February 2023: 5—Canned Tomatoes; 12-Canned Potatoes; 19—Any kind of Soups; 26—Pork-n-Beans.

February 2023; Anniversaries: None. **Birthdays:** 19-Maxine Pool;_25-Jan Pigg. Please let us know if we have left anyone out.

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRECSPONDENCE 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. You may also enroll on our website.: greenplainchurchofchrist.org.

HOME BIBLE STUDY; We offer a FREE in-home Bible study entitled “Back to the Bible” for anyone who is interested in gaining more knowledge of the Bible. Simply contact us to schedule a time for your study.

Romans 12:15-16 “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.
16 Be of the same mind toward one another....”

**THOSE TO SERVE FEBRUARY 2023
ANNOUNCEMENTS—Chad Canter**

SERVE AT LORD’S TABLE—Roy & Junior

SERVE AT LORD’S TABLE PM

2/5 Roy; 2/12 Junior; 2/19 Roy; 2/26 Junior

OPENING PRAYER AM

2/5 Jonnie; 2/12 Bobby; 2/19; James; 2/26 Jim L.

CLOSING PRAYER AM

2/5 Dave T; 2/12 Mike; 2/19 Jesse; 2/26 Don

SONG LEADERS

Sunday AM—Perry

Sunday PM—Mike



**THE GOSPEL 24/7
GBNTV.ORG**

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not hesitate to obey these commands to receive the forgiveness of sin. Paul wrote that the grace of God teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and to live soberly righteously and godly in this present world

(Titus 2:11-12). One who loves God will strive to live as God directs in His Word.

Yes, God has sent you a Valentine. He loves you. Will you send Him a Valentine of love by serving Him in your life?

THE GREATEST LOVE STORY By Josh Blackmer

His love for her is one that has inspired both writer and poet, song and sonnet. The true story of a man that loved his bride more than life itself, more than any earthly treasure. Even, it seems, more than she loved him. It was clear to most that she did not deserve his love or such devotion. To the same crowd, she appeared a common one, but he spoke of her as one set apart, a beautiful city on a hill for all to see. He spoke to thousands about the attributes of his beloved. He told them that everyone should know her and that she is a blessing to all acquainted with her. He spoke of her as though he knew her so intimately. "Such a great treasure," he would say. "Be prepared for our wedding," he would admonish, though no one had ever seen her. There were many who liked hearing about his bride, yet others did not. For envy and jealousy the bridegroom was taken. He was savagely beaten and died a gruesome death. Throughout his painful demise he spoke of her. He loved her and for his great love, he died.

This allegorical depiction of Christ, the Bridegroom, and the church as the bride highlights a very sacrificial love. It is a literary device that is used several times in the New Testament. On one occasion, John the baptizer mentioned Christ as a bridegroom and himself as a friend of the bridegroom (John 3:29). Jesus used this imagery twice in Matthew 9:15 and Matthew 25:1-12. These all tell of a responsibility to the Bridegroom. The Holy Spirit through the pen of

Paul mentioned it again in Ephesians chapter 5. Paul, talking of the mystery concerning Christ and His church (Eph. 5:32), deepens our understanding of the relation between husband and wife. In the short section of Ephesians 5:22-33, there are several commands. The wives are called to be in subjection to and show respect for their husbands (5:22, 33) "as to the Lord." That includes the expectation that husbands will be the head of the household and leading in spiritual matters. The command to husbands is to love "just as Christ." These three words are repeated twice, showing men how they are to love their wives. In verse 25, "Just as Christ...gave Himself for her." We are to have a sacrificial love for our wives. One that would take self out of the way and practice those things that would promote her well-being. We are also to have a love that "nourishes and cherishes...just as Christ" (5:29). This is a love that builds up and protects. It is not bound by just the physical needs but also speaks more to her spiritual needs.

As we contemplate this great love story, let us exercise diligence to graft it into our own story of love. By putting into practice those commands concerning marriage, we are given insight into the mysteries of Christ and His church.

-[The Greatest Love Story](http://TheGreatestLoveStory.com) - [Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ \(pblcoc.org\)](http://PalmBeachLakesChurchOfChrist.org)

LOVE ONE ANOTHER By Roby Ellis

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. John 15:12-13

In His final conversation with His disciples, we may expect Jesus to reveal the things they needed most to remember. What does He say? He begins by washing their feet and teaching the importance of humility and servitude. He assures them that He is going for reasons beneficial for them: (1) to prepare a place for them in His Father's house and (2) to send the Holy Spirit. He speaks to these troubled men about things like peace (14:27) and perfect joy (15:11). Notice the commandment that Jesus stresses: "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you" (v 12, emphasis in original). He emphasizes the need for love among the disciples after His departure. He assures them that He loves them just as the Father loves Him (15:9), and He urges them to remain in this supreme sacrificial love (vv 10-13). Jesus knew that the disciples would need one another to weather the storms ahead, and love would be the only force strong enough to bind them together.

Why was brotherly love so important to Jesus? Jesus knew that when the disciples failed—and fail they would—only love could bring them back. When Jesus met Peter again after he had denied Him, the Lord did not rebuke him, but simply asked, "Do you love Me?" (John 21:15-17). When Paul said to "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15), he did so in a discussion about maintaining unity (v 3) and edifying (v 15) the body. Furthermore, their love would demonstrate to the world that Jesus truly was from God. When Jesus died, far from sneaking back into anonymity, the disciples stood side-by-side and faced the consequences of preaching openly in Jesus' name! With no treasury from which to begin a ministry, they sold their possessions and made daily distribution to the poor (Acts 4:32-37). Their love for one another made it plain that Jesus had permanently transformed their lives in a way that only deity could. Does the world see this in us today?

How should we love one another? Just as Jesus loved His disciples. John tells us that He loved them "to the end" (13:1) and that He loved them enough to lay down His life for them (15:13)—not only as their Messiah, but as their friend (15:13-15)! When we learn to love in this way, we will work to make the Christian walk easier for each other. We do this by refusing to cast any stumbling block into our brother's way (Rom. 14:13), by sacrificing and praying for one another, and by refusing to speak ill of one another (Jas. 4:11). Loving brethren are willing both to stand *by* one another and up *to* one another, and they forgive as often as necessary (Matt. 18:15; Luke 7:40-43).

As Jesus' disciples, we must stand together, because we are better together than we could ever be apart. A coal will burn brightly when it is inside the fire with other coals glowing beside it, but when pulled out, it will soon grow cold. If your love for your brethren is lacking, start looking for opportunities to nourish it, and when you do, you may be surprised how far a little love will go.

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



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

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45
"Who Has A Scriptural Right To Marry?"

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 6:00
"Five Loaves and Two fish"

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM
"A Study of the Book of Matthew"



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts