



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 44

February 15, 2026

Number 5

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
270-293-7027
- James Pigg
270-293-2319

Deacons

- Bobby Hall
- Jesse Vincent

Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison
270-978-7569

Location

- Green Plain
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Pluck Out Your Own “I” *By David Weeks*

Sin is such a terrible thing that Jesus said it would be better to pluck out your own eye and cast it from you if your eye causes you to sin ([Matthew 5:29; 18:9](#)). According to the Lord, it would be better to be blind and go to heaven than to struggle with lust of the eye only to lose your eternal soul. That is quite a statement! Eternal life is so important and should be the only real consideration for a Christian. Being physically limited is better than having all of one's faculties and going to hell.

Please allow me a play on words here: for “eye,” substitute the word “I.” “If your ‘I’ causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it far from you. . .” The words “I” and “Me” are two of the most dangerous words in our vocabulary. People are often quite self-absorbed, and that is a dangerous thing to one's spiritual life. Sin is the result of one being drawn away by his desires and enticed ([James 1:13-15](#)). The desires that James describes clearly have to do with self-

interest. If love of self keeps you from heaven, then it is certainly better to cut away your “I” and put others first. Everything in the New Testament teaches us that a disciple of the Lord is one who puts others ahead of himself ([Philippians 2:3-4](#)). Love does not seek its own ([1 Corinthians 13:5](#)). One is to seek the well-being of others rather than his own well-being ([1 Corinthians 10:24](#)).

Unfortunately, most people struggle with “*Me Syndrome*.” Consider these clear Bible examples. Greed motivated the sin of Balaam ([2 Peter 2:15](#); Jude v. 11; [Revelation 2:14](#)). Ananias and Sapphira kept back part of the proceeds of the sale of their possessions and lied about it out of plain old selfishness ([Acts 5:1-10](#)). What drove David to sin with the wife of Uriah if it was not selfishness ([2 Samuel 11:1-5](#))? Who could argue that selfish desire to possess real power from God was at the root of Simon the sorcerer's sin ([Acts](#)

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NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek), Dave & Ann Thompson (Hickory Woods), Joan Lathrop, Wanda Barrett (Charter Senior Living of Murray), Roy and Marie Wyatt, Mary and Jesse Vincent.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Larry Wyatt, Patrice Wyatt, Jackie Herndon, Janice Canter, Peyton Mays, Patricia Dowdy and Darren Mays.

PANTRY ITEMS February 2026: 1-Pears; 8-Peaches; 15-Fruit Salad; 22-Apple Sauce. All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

January 2026; Anniversaries: 2-Tina and Chad Canter; Karen and Martin Elkins **BIRTH-DAYS:** 19-Maxine Pool; 25-Jan Pigg. Congratulations!

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. This study can be conducted in your home or in our building. You may call 270-978-7569 or write us at Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD, Hazel, KY 42049.

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. Send your name, complete mailing address and phone number to Green Plain Church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris Rd, Hazel, KY 42049 or enroll online on our webpage. This is a great way to increase your Bible knowledge.

OUR THANKS to Jan and James Pigg for the Wonderful Valentine gathering!!



THOSE TO SERVE January 2026

Announcements: James Pigg

Lord’s Table AM: Mike & Russell

Lord’s Table PM: 1-Chad; 11-Russell 18-Chad;
25-JRussell

Opening Prayer AM; 4-Bobby; 11-Jimmy; 18-Jonnie;
25-Perry

Closing Prayer AM; 4-Don; 11-Roy; 18-Jesse
25-Chad

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

Count Contribution: Mike and Russell

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[5:21-23](#))?

Are you one of those self-absorbed people? The test is simple: How many times a day do you say, “I”? Do you talk more about what *you* think about things than you wonder what others might think? Do you lecture people about what you like? Are words like, “I think. . . I

feel. . . I want. . . I need. . . I believe. . . I like. . . I don’t like. . . It seems to me. . . If you ask me. . .” the driving force of your conversations?

If so, then you probably need to “pluck out your ‘I’ and cast it far from you.”

—[Pluck Out Your Own “I” - Bulletin articles & church of Christ at Greenwood](#)

WILL ONE BE HAPPY IN HEAVEN WITH LOVED ONES IN HELL? By Wayne Jackson

“If I am a Christian, and my parents or other loved ones are not, and they die lost, how can I be happy in heaven, knowing that my family members are suffering in hell?”

This is a question that has challenged the mind of every reflective child of God. There is no specific treatment of the issue in the Scriptures, but there are passages containing bits of information which, when viewed in concert, can supply a significantly substantial answer to the perceived problem.

Erroneous Attempts to Deal with the Problem

In addressing this matter of concern, one must not resort to “solutions” that are contrary to plain Bible revelation. For example, “universalism,” i.e., the theory that all people will be saved, is not in harmony with the Scriptures (Mt. 7:13-14).

Nor is it feasible to suggest that one will have no remembrance of earthly associations (see Lk. 16:27-28). It should not be argued that there will not be recognition in heaven, for that clearly is not the case (Mt. 8:11; Lk. 23:43). The possible answer to our query must be sought elsewhere.

Possible Solutions

It should be acknowledged that there are many things about the eternal order of things that are beyond our ability to comprehend presently. This is why the Bible writers were moved to employ “anthropomorphic,” “anthropomorphism” &> [human form] phrases in conveying eternal verities. For example, in the “flame” of the Hadean realm,

the rich man wanted water to cool his “tongue” (Lk. 16:24), when, as a matter of fact, his literal tongue was rotting in the ground.

Similarly, one of the precious declarations of the book of Revelation is that in the heavenly order of things, God “shall wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Rev. 21:4). The symbolism, characteristic of the book as a whole, is apparent, and yet the design of the precious promise is perfectly clear.

But what is the cause of those “tears”? Likely the reference is to the tears that we’ve shed on earth due to sufferings, persecutions, broken hearts over loved ones, etc. The point seems to be this—all of the horrible consequences of evil will be eradicated. Sin, and its attendant sorrows, will vanish. Somehow, God will assuage the hearts of his people, and their former episodes of sadness will be eclipsed by celestial joy.

There are several points that can be made to help bring this problem into sharper focus.

If it were the case that sorrow over lost loved ones destroys the bliss of heaven, then there would be no “heaven” for the redeemed, because all of the Lord’s people have had family members, whether local or extended, who have died outside the sphere of salvation (cf. Mt. 10:34-39). One must conclude, therefore, that the perceived problem will be remedied by HIM who does all things right (Gen. 18:25).

God is a being of supreme love; love is intrinsic to his very nature (1 Jn. 4:8). The depth of his love

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for humanity is evidenced in the very gift of his Son (Jn. 3:16). Man's sense of love cannot begin to rival that of the supremely compassionate Father.

If, then, it is the case that God himself is happy (see "blessed" 1 Tim. 1:11) — even though the objects of his love rebel against him and end up in hell — surely, it is equally certain that mere mortals, with a lesser capacity for love, can be happy in the eternal sphere of existence.

Is it not a reality that right now, as we live upon this earth, we are aware of the fact that some people, for whom we have entertained considerable affection, have died in a state of disobedience? In spite of that, can we not affirm that the God-fearing life is a happy, wonderful existence? Paul could (Phil. 4:4)! If such is the case with reference to the affairs of earth, will it not be even more so in the eternal order of things?

But perhaps the most telling consideration of all is this. Can we not admit that our current perception of sin falls far short of that which is complete? Sin has not only affected us physically, it has dulled our perception of absolute holiness. Unquestionably we do not comprehend the magnitude of evil.

Note the language, in one of Jesus' parables, regarding the wicked.

"But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me" (Lk. 19:27, ESV).

Some folks are shocked at such a descriptive — even repelled by it. Then consider the following text:

"If any man worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead, or upon his hand, he also shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed [undiluted] in the cup of his anger, and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day and night" (Rev. 14:9-11).

Some have considered this passage so out of harmony with their own perception of divine justice, they have rejected altogether the concept of an eternal, conscious punishment in hell — in spite of the plain Bible teaching on the subject.

Here is a burning question for deep meditation. Is it not possible that once we have escaped the frailties and limitations of the flesh, that we will have a much clearer awareness of the heinousness of sin?

And might we not see those who have rejected serving the Lord in an entirely different light from that entertained on earth — even though we were connected to them closely in the flesh?

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
"A Study of Luke"

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:50 AM
"Jesus Heals the Blind"

SUNDAY WORSIP 2:00 PM
"Think On These Things"

Wednesday 7:00 PM
"A Study of I Kings"

An exposure to the presence of the Holy God may take care of numerous matters that are viewed as "problematic" from our current, incomplete vantage point!

We do not believe, therefore, that the thoughtful question posed above is insurmountable. We must think through the possibilities, and, in the final analysis, trust the Creator to take care of the problems.

—Christian Courier Online
www.christiancourier.com

*"We don't change God's message
— His message changes us!"*