



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

February 26, 2023

Number 8

## 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)

## THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

*By Jonnie Hutchison*

We first read of the existence of the New Testament church in Acts 2:47, "*And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*" This followed the preaching of the gospel by the apostles of Jesus who were given the miraculous ability to speak in the various languages of those gathered in Jerusalem for the Jewish Pentecost. Jesus had promised to build His church and to give to the apostles the "*keys of the kingdom of heaven*" (Matthew 16:18-19). Those "keys" were the terms of entrance into the kingdom as stated in Acts 2:38 where those who believed in Jesus Christ were told to "*...repent and be baptized.... for the remission of sins.*" Those who "*gladly received his word were baptized*" (Acts 2:41), and having received the remission of their sins, were added by the Lord to His church which is His spiritual kingdom. Thus, the church Jesus promised to build was established in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost after Jesus had ascended back to heaven (Acts 1:9-11; 2:36-47).

Today multiple "churches" exist each claiming to be the

church, or at least a branch of the church, about which one may read in the New Testament. However, if a "church" was established in any other place than Jerusalem, by any other person than Jesus Christ, at any other time than the first Jewish Pentecost following the ascension of Jesus into heaven, and with any other terms of entrance than that specified by the apostles, one must wonder how could it be the New Testament church that belongs to Christ?

Jesus **did not** establish **different kinds** of churches with conflicting teachings and practices as exists today. The church we read of in the New Testament spread from Jerusalem to "*Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth*" by the preaching of the apostles and others who went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 1:8; 8:4). These taught the same pattern for entrance into the church, and thus salvation, that was initially taught by the apostles in Jerusalem as recorded in Acts 2. Wherever this gospel was preached, men and women obeyed those same terms

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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,

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

**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 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](mailto:greenplaincoc@gmail.com). You may also enroll on our website.: [greenplainchurchofchrist.org](http://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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** The Spring session of our School of Biblical Studies begins on Monday, March 13, 2023 and continues each consecutive Monday at 7:00 pm through May 8th. Jack Philips will continue his study on 2 Corinthians which he began last fall and John Sales will present a study on the miracles of Jesus. Our Spring Gospel Meeting is scheduled for April 9-13, 2023 with Larry Powers.

### **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**

(Continued from page 1)

of entrance and were added by the Lord to His church, thus establishing congregations of the church of Christ in different localities - not different kinds of churches but the same church as that established by Jesus first in Jerusalem. Following that same pattern today will result in those who do so being saved and added by the Lord to His spiritual kingdom which is His church. If not, why not?

The plea of faithful churches of Christ today is to return to the original pattern revealed in the New Testament. That includes the pattern of worship, the organization of the church and the mission or work the Lord has left His church in this world to do. You can be just a Christian saved by the blood of Jesus and added by Him to His church if you are willing to follow the divine pattern revealed in the New Testament. May God bless you in your decision.

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### **PRAYING FOR SALVATION** *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Sometimes people are very surprised to learn what is actually in the Bible. It is easy to assume that the Bible teaches something simply because one has heard it all of his life, but, then, when he examines the scriptures, he finds that the Bible really doesn't teach it at all.

It may surprise some to learn that the Bible doesn't tell a sinner to **pray for salvation** or to "**pray the sinner's prayer.**" By "sinner" we mean someone who has never submitted himself or herself to the demands of the gospel and has thus never experienced the new birth. Such a person is outside of Christ and in a lost condition. Such people in New Testament times were never told to **pray** for salvation. Instead, they were told to believe in Christ (Acts 16:31), to repent of sin (Acts 2:38), to confess with their mouth their faith in Christ (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10) and to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). It is true that Saul of Tarsus prayed for three days while he waited in Damascus; but when God sent Ananias to him to tell him what he should do, he did not tell Saul to keep on praying. Instead, he told Saul, "*And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" (Acts 22:16).

Cornelius was a devout man who practiced prayer even before his conversion to Christ (Acts 10:2). But Peter was sent to tell him words whereby he might be saved (Acts 11:14). He did not tell him to pray for salvation but commanded him to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48).

Every conversion recorded in the New Testament follows this same pattern. Conspicuously absent from the Bible record is any command for the sinner to "pray through" or to "pray the sinner's prayer." These ideas come not from God but from men.

God has a plan of salvation. Jesus said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, he that believeth not shall be damned*" (Mark 16:16). No mention is ever made of prayer as a step of conversion. Prayer is a privilege that Christians have. Alien sinners must first obey the gospel and become children of God before they can enjoy the right to say, "*Our Father who art in heaven.*"

We plead with each reader to follow the divine pattern of salvation revealed in the New Testament. Your eternal salvation depends upon your willingness to do so.

## A QUIZ YOU BETTER PASS

**True or False** – God is a rewarder of those, who with mediocrity, seek him. Those who know their Bible well, will answer, “False,” recognizing that the above statement is a bit of a “twist” of what Hebrews 11:6 says. What the Bible actually says is that God “is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). Why then are there so many mediocre Christians? It’s not like we haven’t been adequately warned. Consider these explicit passages.

- ⇒ Lukewarm Christians (another word for mediocre) are sickening to Jesus. Therefore, he counsels them to repent and be zealous (Revelation 3:16,19).
- ⇒ • We are to seek first, above all things in our lives, the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33).
- ⇒ • We must love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37).
- ⇒ • The over-arching theme of the “Sermon on the Mount” was that we must possess a “righteousness that exceeds” (Matthew 5:20).
- ⇒ • We must be “zealous for good works,” (Titus 2:14) and “rich in good works” (1 Timothy 6:18).
- ⇒ We must give diligence to show ourselves approved of God (2 Timothy 2:15).
- ⇒ And God will reward those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

Friends, I don’t know how God can make it any clearer. Being a mediocre, nominal, lukewarm Christian is not sufficient to go to Heaven. Who says so? Not me, God – right there in black and white. I’m afraid the body of Christ may consist of a great number of people who are mediocre, nominal, lukewarm Christians. I’m also afraid that if we don’t remind Christians, with urgent appeals, many souls will be lost. Friends, the inability to motivate some Christians to take advantage of Bible classes, and worship services throughout the week, gives me great concern. I understand why some can’t, but I’m afraid I also understand why others won’t. Count this as a warning from one who needs to heed it too. Church attendance is not the measure of seeking God with diligence, but one cannot successfully deny that it is an indicator of it. “All things are ready, come to the feast” (Luke 14:16-24)

— by Steve Higginbotham [A-Quiz-You-Had-Better-Pass.pdf](#)  
([karnscoc.org](http://karnscoc.org))

### 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  
“The Faithfulness of God”**

**SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 6:00  
“Jesus at the Feast  
of Tabernacles”**

**WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM  
“A Study of the  
Book of Matthew”**



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available  
wherever you get your Podcasts