



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

March 10, 2024

Number 10

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

EASTER—WHERE IS THE AUTHORITY?

By Jonnie Hutchison

“Easter Sunday” falls on the 31st day of March this year according to the official calendar of the Roman Catholic Church. An article entitled “*Easter in the Catholic Church*” contains the following information:

“Easter is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. On this Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For Catholics, Easter Sunday comes at the end of 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving known as Lent. Through spiritual struggle and self-denial, we have prepared ourselves to die spiritually with Christ on Good Friday, the day of His Crucifixion, so that we can rise again with Him in new life on Easter”¹ (Emphasis mine J.H.)

Many of the Protestant denominations, evangelicals, and other so-called “Christian groups” follow many of the Roman Catholic traditions associated with the celebration of Easter.

“Easter Sunday” sunrise services have become a very popular part of this tradition as has **Ash Wednesday** which marks the beginning of the **Season of Lent** (A 40 day period of fasting, prayer and giving of alms). **Maundy Thursday** (the Thursday of Easter week—also called “Holy Thursday”) traditionally commemorates the “Last Supper” of Jesus with the Apostles. **Good Friday** is said to commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus and His death on the cross. **Holy Saturday** is said to be a day of “somber reflection” regarding the death of Christ and what His death means to the world.. **Easter Sunday** is said to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Each of these days have particular requirements. For example, on **Ash Wednesday** participants smear ashes on their foreheads as a sign of “penance.” The requirement for **Good Friday** is a day of “strict fasting and abstinence”. In the United States every person 14 years or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on **Ash Wednesday, Good Friday** and

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NEWS AND NOTES

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

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

PANTRY ITEMS March 2024: 3—Ketchup; 10-Mustard; 17-Mayo; 24-Bar-B-Que Sauce; 31-Salad dressing (any kind). All items must be **non-perishable or canned**.

March 2024; Anniversaries: 12-Marie & Roy Wyatt; 15-Sue & Bobby Hall. **Birthdays:** 9-Gail Hutchison; 14-Roy Wyatt; 20-James 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.

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.

⇒ **Spring Gospel Meeting April 7-11** with Bradley Smith preacher for the Hickory Grove church of Christ. The theme for this meeting will be “Your Questions About the Church of Christ.” Please be praying for our meeting and plan on inviting others to attend with you. Schedule of Services: Sunday 10:00 am for Bible classes; 10:45 am for morning worship and **7:30** pm for evening worship. Handouts are available on the table in the lobby.

THSE TO SERVE March 2024

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-Bibby; 24-Jim L.; 31-Russell

Closing Prayer AM: 3-Roy; 10-Dave; 17-Jesse;
24-Mike; 31-Junior

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

Count Contribution: James & Chad
If you cannot serve contact Chad Canter

GREEN PLAIN SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

SPRING 2024

March 4-April 29

Each Monday Evening

7:00—9:00 pm

**In depth studies on
Romans—Josh Manning
2 Corinthians—Jack Phillips**

Meet in the Annex

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every Friday during **Lent**.²

While we do not question either the motives or the sincerity of those who follow the traditional aspects of **Easter**, it must be asked, where does God sanction such? Where in the Bible does God authorize the religious celebration of **Easter** and the various traditions associated with it? Where does one read of **Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday** in the New Testament? Where is there even one example of any New Testament church keeping the traditions of **Easter** or any apostle or other inspired man commanding they be kept?

The church we read about in our New Testaments did not celebrate **Easter! That's right! They did not celebrate Easter!** Rather than keeping a once a year human religious tradition, New Testament Christians remembered the death of Jesus every first day of the week in partaking of the Lord's Supper as commanded by the Lord (Matthew 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29). **Easter** and its various human traditions originated

with the apostate Roman Catholic Church not with the God of heaven.

Is it a good thing for people to be reminded of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus from the dead? Yes, but only in the way that God has prescribed in His authoritative Word! "*If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God....*" (1 Peter 4:11). The inspired John warned of the necessity of abiding in the "*doctrine [teaching] of Christ*" (2 John 9). How can one do so and embrace human religious traditions which are found nowhere in our Lord's teaching? We must remember that the Lord **did teach** that the religious traditions originated by men leads to "*vain worship*" (Matthew 15:8-9).

To be faithful to God requires us to accept **the Bible only** as the final authority in all that we teach and practice. The religious celebration of Easter has no authority from scripture!

¹http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/What_Is_Easter.htm.

²http://catholicism.about.com/od/catholicliving/f/Fasting_Rules.htm

CLOSE TO HAVING A HEART ATTACK—Dan Jenkins

When the Lord said, "*Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life*" (Prov. 4:23), He obviously is not talking about that large muscle in our chests. The Bible uses the word "heart" over 800 times and almost always, if not actually always, refers to that inner part of our being. When the Lord discussed the greatest commandment, He spoke of loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind. That inner part of us is our soul.

What does it mean to keep your heart with all diligence? Our time and energy is limited and priority must be given to those things which are truly important. When the

Lord described the attention which must be given to the heart, He used the word "all." There is nothing more important than to devote ourselves and our time and energy to caring for our heart. Satan understands this and works to cause a severe "heart attack."

Look at some of the words used to describe how we are to keep our heart. We are to *love* the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 6:5). We are to *seek* the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 4:29). We are to *serve* the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 10:12). We are to *obey* the Lord with all of our heart (Deut.

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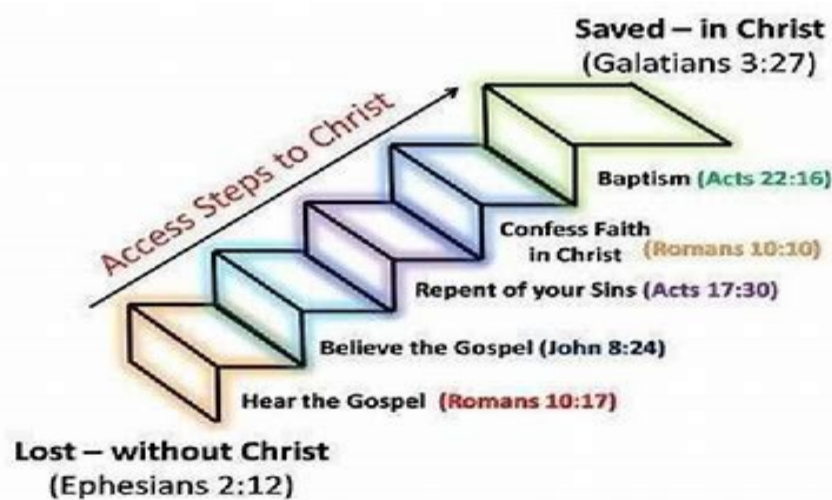
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30:2). We are to *trust* the Lord with all our heart (Prov. 3:5). We are to *turn* to the Lord with all our heart (Deut. 30:10). Consider carefully the words mentioned above—love, seek, serve, obey, trust and turn. What could be more important than these words!

Think about it for a moment. If you were Satan, how would you attack the heart of Christians? It would not be a full-frontal attack using temptations he might openly use against the most worldly individuals. Is it not reasonable to see him getting the righteous to modify the level of their dedication? Would he not seek to weaken the love, the seeking, the serving, the obeying, the trusting and the turning to God? Would he not do this while at the same time deceiving us so we can hardly see the changes? In reality, it is a full-frontal attack, and we are not even aware of it. This is why the Bible speaks of the deceitfulness of sin.

Sometimes we measure our heart conditions by looking in the wrong places. Jesus described how the people in the first century focused on the external. *“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me”* (Mark 7:6). These same words seem to describe our own day. Can we not see the danger in the way he attacks us? Satan attacks our hearts in this same way, and he wins if we are deceived by him. Think about the list of words mentioned above, just make sure that you are not close to a heart attack.

—[Close to Having a Heart Attack - Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ \(pblcoc.org\)](http://Close to Having a Heart Attack - Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ (pblcoc.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 Opportunities

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10:00 AM
Study of I Timothy

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45
“Offer Your Sacrifice”

SUNDAY PM WORSIP 2:00
“Heaven’s Appeal”

Wednesday 7:00 pm
Study of Matthew



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts