



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

April 21, 2024

Number 15

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;
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

WHAT WILL BUILD A STRONG CHURCH?

Not sensationalist! Not gimmicks! Not more committees, or mere programs, of a “fun and games” emphasis! These things may be “right on” for civic clubs, social clubs, and country clubs, but not for the Lord’s church!

Strong Bible preaching and teaching! God’s Word, when it is disseminated, plainly, forcefully, uncompromisingly, and yet kindly, will **build up!** Paul said, “*I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up*” (Acts 20:32).

Exemplary leadership! Men who make themselves “examples to the flock” are careful in attending it (1 Pet. 5:2-3). To grow, the church must have quality leadership—men who know how to lead and will do so!

Christian living on the part of every member! Unimpeachable conduct clearly evidenced in the lives of Christians will illuminate the way for many in the realm of darkness. Read Matthew 5:16 and Philippians 2:15.

Congregational warmth and love! The fellowship of the Lord’s church should be so sweet and precious that the whole com-

munity takes notice and observes, “See how they love each other!” Without this a congregation will never be what God would have it to be!

Compassionate hearts! The church of Christ needs to be known as the most tender-hearted bunch of people in the world, ready and willing to help all and especially those of the household of faith (Gal. 6:9-10).

Evangelistic fervor! The emphasis of the early church was soul-winning! The church will grow when we cease not to “teach and preach Jesus as the Christ” every day, whenever we have opportunity! Read Acts 5:42).

An “I want to serve” attitude permeating the congregation! People serve the Lord because they love Him; they want to serve and not out of a spirit of drudgery.

—Author Unknown

Editor’s Note: Mere numbers or a multiplicity of activities in and of themselves do not indicate the spiritual strength of a congregation. No

(Continued on page 3)

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members: Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Hayes and Marjorie Grady and Jim Lowrie. Marie Wyatt remains at Spring Creek Mike Ernstberger is slowly improving. Roy Wyatt is home. Joan Lathrop had a heart cath this past week but is now home. James Pigg suffered a heart attack this past Tuesday but is now home recovering.

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

OUR EVENING SERVICE TODAY RETURNS TO 6:00 PM

PANTRY ITEMS April 2024: 7—Mixed Vegetables; 14-Toliet Tissue; 21-Jelly; 28-Great Northern Beans. All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

April 2024; Anniversaries: 13-Jackie & Don Spiceland; **Birthdays:** 1-Tina Canter; 3-Mary Lowrie; 8-Katelyn Canter; 24-Dave Thompson; 27-Steve Enoch; 29-Sue Hall.

ENROLL IN A FREE BIBLE CORRECSPONDENCE COURSE. Send your name and complete mailing address and phone number to the address on page one of this bulletin.

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.

- ◇ **“Let your faith be a light that guides you through the darkest of times.”**
- ◇ **“In prayer, we find a bridge between heaven and earth.”**
- ◇ **“God’s love is the anchor that steadies us amidst life’s storms.”**
- ◇ **“Seek God’s guidance, and you’ll never walk alone.”**

THOSE TO SERVE APRIL 2024

announcements: James Pigg

Lord’s Table AM: Bobby H. & Mike E

Lord’s Table PM: 7-Chad; 14-Bobby; 21-Chad
28-Bobby.

Opening Prayer AM: 7-Jonnie; 14-Perry;
21-James; 28-Jim Lowrie

Closing Prayer AM: 7-Roy; 14-Dave; 21-Junior;
28-Jesse

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

Count Contribution: Bobby & Mike

GREEN PLAIN SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

SPRING 2024

Continues through 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

(Continued from page 1)

congregation of the Lord's church is spiritually strong if the truth is not taught clearly, constantly and faithfully. No congregation is spiritually strong unless her members are actively involved in seeking the lost—which should always be our

priority. The suggestions in the above article are still relevant in the 21st century. If we hope to continue as a strong congregation of God's people here at Green Plain, we will make every effort to continue to apply them. —Jonnie

THANK YOU FOR THE "LITTLE THINGS" *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Having been a part of this congregation for the past twelve plus years, this writer has observed something that is of supreme importance that is the subject of this article. Sometimes members of the church may have the idea that unless they are able to do some "great thing" in the service of the Lord that what they do is of little importance. However, it is obvious that the Bible teaches that any service we render to the Lord in His name is no small matter and is vital to the success of the work of the Lord as a whole.

Jesus taught, "*And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.*" (Matthew 10:42 NKJV). Giving someone a cup of water seems but a small thing to us. Yet, Jesus indicated that one who does so will not lose his reward. What about bringing food for the pantry to be distributed to those in need—would that not be similar to providing a cup of water to another? It seems such a small thing when it is given yet has the potential to influence those who are helped to the salvation of their souls. That, brothers and sisters, is no small matter!

There are seemingly "little things" that members of this congregation are constantly doing which reap tremendous benefits and promote the cause of Christ. Things like visiting the sick and shut-ins, preparing and providing food for the sick and in times of death, mowing yards, cleaning houses,

speaking to the erring and sending cards and letters of encouragement to members and to those who visit our services, and a host of other such activities. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for these "little things"!

One source of encouragement to me personally is to see those in the latter years of their lives present at every Bible class and worship service. It is obvious that some come when they really don't feel physically like being here. Yet, their love for the Lord is evidenced by their presence. Some who are younger ought to pay attention to this great example. It may be that some would consider this just a "little thing." However, this example of faithfulness is something that all of us should strive to imitate.

Each of us should use whatever abilities God has given us in His service no matter how small or insignificant they may seem to us. When we do so we are contributing to the work of the Lord and the salvation of souls—our own and those of others. The truth is that no service one may render to the Lord is really a "little thing."

Let us heed the instruction: "*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ*" (Colossians 3:24). Thank you, brothers and sisters, for the "little things"!



SALVATION IS "IN CHRIST"

By Jonnie Hutchison

If someone asked you where salvation is found, how would you answer? The answer to that question is clearly stated in 2 Timothy 2:10, "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." Where is salvation found? The inspired answer is, "in Christ Jesus"! That means the saved are "in Christ" but the unsaved are outside of Christ.

The phrases "in Christ" and "into Christ" are used several times in the New Testament. These phrases are of extreme importance in the matter of one's salvation. Consider these truths about being "in Christ." Redemption is "in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24). One is "alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:11). The gift of God is eternal life "in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23b). There is no condemnation for those who are "in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). There is reason to glory "in Christ Jesus" (Romans 15:17). Sanctification is "in Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:2). God leads the saved "in triumph in Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:14). Those "in Christ" are a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Spiritual liberty is "in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 2:4). All spiritual blessings are "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). These are a few examples which show the emphasis and the necessity of being "in Christ."

Since salvation is "in Christ" the question of how one gets "into Christ" becomes extremely important to those desiring salvation. Again, the Bible is clear in answering this question. One gets "into Christ" by obeying the Lord's command to be immersed (baptized) in water. "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). Since water baptism places one "into Christ" then what is the spiritual location of one who has not been baptized? The answer is obvious. Salvation is "in Christ" – being baptized puts one "into Christ" – therefore without baptism one is still outside of Christ and outside of the place where salvation is located. Some believe that one is saved before and without water baptism. If true, one is saved before and without being in Christ. However, the Bible teaches that salvation is "in Christ" and that one is baptized "into Christ" wherein is salvation.

Hearing the gospel (Acts 2:37-38, 41), believing in Jesus as the Son of God (Mark 16:16), repentance of sin (Acts 2:38) and confession of one's faith (Acts 8:37) are all prerequisites to baptism. But baptism puts one into Christ where salvation is. "And why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

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 1 Timothy

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45

"Why Am I Here?"

SUNDAY PM WORSHIP 6 pm

"Have Patience #2"

Wednesday 7:00 pm

Study of Matthew



A Bi-Weekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts