



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 40

April 3, 2022

Number 14

## 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

- Larry Enoch
- 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

## 4 REASONS WE KNOW THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT TO GOD *By Andy Brewer*

It seems to be a belief that is growing more and more prevalent all the time. People see the importance of God, they see the importance of a relationship with God, and they see the importance for a connection of some form to Christianity; but despite it all they see absolutely no need to have any connection with the church. Their mantra is “give me Jesus but not the church.” The church holds no value to them whatsoever. In their minds they can be Christians just as much on their own, in the isolation of their homes, in the serenity of nature, or anywhere in the world as they can connected to a local church. It’s the anti-religion religion, and it ignores everything we know about God’s mind concerning the church. The church isn’t important to people who don’t see the church as God sees the church. But there are at least four reasons by we know the church is important to God and why it should be important to us as well.

**The church was in God’s**

**eternal wisdom.** That means that even before time ever began God had the church in mind. It was always a part of His plan. It wasn’t an after thought or a “plan B” because His mission had failed. When Paul was addressing the revelation of God’s mystery he said that God’s eternal purpose was accomplished through the church making God’s manifold wisdom known to the world (Ephesians 3:8-11). How could something that God had in mind through the recesses of eternity be unimportant?

**The church was promised by God.** From the time that sin entered the world God set a plan in motion that would culminate with His church being established and redemption being made possible. And with that plan in mind throughout history God would repeatedly give reminders about the coming of that church. Just read passages like Isaiah 2:2-4; Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14; Joel 2:28-32; and other passages and see the

*(Continued on page 3)*

## NEWS AND NOTES

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** Peggy Jarvis, Joanne Barnes, Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, Larry Enoch, Mary and Jim Lowrie, Margorie and Hayes Grady, Jesse and Mary Vincent, and Bobby and Sue Hall.

**Family and Friends:** Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Nancy Rhodes, Joel White, Nat and Rita Evans, Larry and Rose Wyatt and Bonnie Byerly.

- Please continue to pray for our brethren in Ukraine and an end to hostilities. We sorrow with so many who have lost loved ones in this conflict. Remember, the effective fervent prayers of the righteous avail much (James 5:16).
- **PANTRY ITEMS April 2022:** 3—Paper Towels; 10—Kleenex; 17—Toilet Paper; 24—Vienna Sausages. Please bring any additional items you wish for the “blessing box” which is located next to the breezeway on the north side of the building.
- **April 2022 Birthdays:** 1-Tina Wyatt; 3-Mary Lowrie; 24-Dave Thompson; 27-Steve Enoch; 29-Sue Hall;
- **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” or anyone who is interested in gaining more knowledge of the Bible. Simply contact us to schedule a time for your study.

### THOSE TO SERVE April 2022

Announcements: Bobby Hall

Preside at Lord’s Table AM: Larry & Chad

Preside at Lord’s Table PM: 3—Chat; 10—Larry;  
17—Chad. 24—Larry

#### Opening Prayer AM

3—Mike; 10—Bobby; 17—James; 24—Jim

#### Closing Prayer AM

3—Perry; 10—Dave; 17—Junior; 24—Roy

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

Count Contribution: Larry & Chad

Usher: Jesse

### ***LESSONS TODAY***

#### Bible Study-10 AM *The Book of Acts* Worship

10:45 am— “*Apollos: Qualities Worth Imitating*”

6 pm— “*Walking Worthy*”

#### Wednesday Bible Class *A Study of 1 John*

7:00 PM

*(Continued from page 1)*

plan God had in mind. The church was at the center of God's redemptive plan throughout history and He repeatedly reminded man of it. How could something that God promised throughout time be unimportant?

**God sent His Son to die for the church.** When Paul met with the Ephesians elders one last time he tried to encourage them and remind them of the gravity of their responsibilities as elders. In that context he said these words, "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28). The church was important enough to God that He was willing to send His Son to die for it. How could something God was willing to let His Son die for be unimportant?

### **God promised to save the church.**

Just as the ark was God's chosen vessel of salvation from the flood that destroyed the world the church is God's chosen vessel of salvation from the condemnation of sin. We know that because Christ is said to be the Savior of His body, the church (Ephesians 5:23). Therefore if I'm in the church I'm among the saved because God has promised to save the church. How could something God promised to save be unimportant?

There is absolutely no doubt that the church is important to God. He designed it to be an essential part of our lives. So when we say the church is not important we are minimizing something for which He sent His very Son to die. The church may not matter to a lot of people in this world but there is no doubt that it definitely matters to God.

—Coldwater church of Christ bulletin

## **SHARING OUR HOPE** *By Mike Riley*

In the stress filled moments of our lives, having no visible means for encouraging strength, our desperate hands often clutch for that intangible called, "hope." Hope tells us to press on when everything else tells us to give up. Where would we be, what would we do, without hope?

There are literally billions of people living today who have no hope in the most significant of all considerations, eternal life. These are like unto those, "which have no hope", that Paul described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13. No hope for salvation. Once in their grave, their doom is "sealed" – hell awaits.

How fortunate and blessed we Christians are in having the "Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1). We have hope in this life (Titus 2:12-13), and we have hope beyond the grave (Psalm 23:4). Because

Christ conquered death for us (Hebrews 2:14; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57; Colossians 2:15) – eternal life in heaven awaits us (1 Peter 1:3-4).

Our hope must be shared with the lost. Peter told us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15). As Christians, we should be giving hope to the hopeless by giving life to the spiritually dead by means of the gospel (Mark 16:15-16).

We need not go into the jungles of foreign lands, nor cross the oceans of the world, to find those without that most glorious hope. Over two hundred million people are presently without hope in the United States.

*(Continued on page 4)*



### 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!

A warm and friendly welcome awaits!

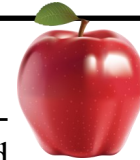
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(Continued from page 3)

Lost, hopeless, and dying people are living in the shadows of our homes and church buildings. Can we say along with

Paul, *“Wherefore I testify unto you this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men”* (Acts 20:26 – ASV)?

### DON'T ADD AN APPLE *By Jonnie Hutchison*



Religious beliefs are often passed from one generation to the next without consideration as to whether they are true. For example, there are many folks who have always believed that the Bible teaches that the “fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil” in the book of Genesis was an apple. The text of the Bible does not call it an apple nor is there any reason to believe that it was an apple. Yet, this traditional belief has been passed down to successive generations and many would argue loud and long that Adam and Eve ate an apple. However, there is no scriptural basis for such an argument. It is only human religious tradition. One might argue that whether the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was an apple is a small matter. After all, it really doesn't change anything – or does it? Would not calling this fruit by something other than God calls it be adding to His Word? Would it not be calling the fruit something other than what God called it? Would such be a failure to respect the silence of God, that is, what God has not said? The fact is that God forbids either adding to His Word or taking from it., ***“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”*** (Deuteronomy 4:2). This warning is repeated in Revelation 22:18-19. No human being has the right to

originate a human religious tradition. If it is not in the Bible, if God hasn't said it, it is not acceptable as religious belief or practice. Peter wrote, *“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God....”* (1 Peter 4:11). The implication in this statement is that one must not speak where God has not spoken. In Jesus day, the Jews had added many of their own human religious traditions binding them upon others as if they were from God. Jesus addressed this in Matthew 15. The scribes and Pharisees questioned Jesus as to why His disciples transgressed the *“tradition of the elders”* in failing to wash their hands before they ate. This obviously was a human tradition for Jesus answered their question by asking them, *“...Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?”* He further said that they made God's commands of *“no effect by your traditions”* and such made their worship vain (Matt. 15:3-9).

Dear reader, are you holding to human religious traditions? Is what you believe and practice in your religion really found in the Bible? Are you respecting what God has said as well as what He has not said? Be as the noble Bereans who *“searched the scriptures daily whether these things were so”* (Acts 17:11). Make sure you haven't added an “apple” to God's Word!