



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 45

May 17, 2026

Number 18

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

### Deacons

- Bobby Hall

### Preacher

- Jonnie Hutchison  
270-978-7569

### Location

- Green Plain  
Church of Christ  
3980 Murray Paris  
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Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone:  
(270) 492-8206
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- greenplain-  
churchofchrist.org

## “WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?”

By Jonnie Hutchison

The question that is the title of this article was actually asked by the inspired writer of the book of James (James 4:14). Many take life for granted never considering the real purpose that God desires for their lives. Let us explore the question: What is **YOUR** life?

**YOUR LIFE IS A GIFT OF GOD.** Human life is special in that it is a gift of the Creator of all things. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* (Genesis 2:7). It is a fact that we humans are different from all other forms of life on this earth. Man has been given dominion over all other life because man alone was created in the likeness of his Creator. *“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our Image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image....”* (Genesis 1:26-27a). *“You have made him to*

*have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet”* (Psalm 8:6). With this special gift comes great personal responsibility on the part of each one. We must realize that since life is a gift from God we have a personal responsibility to live our lives as directed by the one who gave us this precious gift. Living a life governed by sin and the devil is wasting this precious commodity called life. It is in essence a “kick in the face” to the Creator who gave life and dominion to man. What is **YOUR** life?

**YOUR LIFE IS BRIEF.** The inspired writer of James answered his own question, *“For what is your life”* in the words, *“it is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”* There are several passages in the Bible that emphasize how brief our physical lives are. Job declared that *“Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue”* (Job 14:1-2). Yes, we have only a “few days” to live be-

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## NEWS AND NOTES

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Green Plain Members: Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek), Dave & Ann Thompson (Hickory Woods), Wanda Barrett (Charter Health Care), Roy and Marie Wyat, and Dianna Travis. Joan Lathrop is in Spring Creek Rehab.

**Family and Friends:** Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Kim Burrows, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Patrice Wyatt, Jackie Herndon, Peyton Mays, Patricia Dowdy, Darren Mays, Adam Kellam, Dan Sikes, Ariana Yount, and Gina Hutchison.

**PANTRY ITEMS** **May 2026:** 3-Corn; 10-Green Beans; 17-Spinach; 24-Beets. All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

**May 2026; BIRTHDAYS:** 27-Ann Thompson; 29-Mary Vincent. Congratulations!

**Enroll in a FREE Bible Correspondence Course.** Send your name and complete mailing address to Green Plain church of Christ 3980 Murray Paris RD, Hazel, KY 42049. You may also enroll online at our website: <https://greenplainchurchofchrist.org>.

**Our School of Biblical Studies** will continue tomorrow evening, May 18th at 7:00 pm. Larry Powers will continue our study on the book of Revelation. Our class will end on May 25th.

**Can You Answer This Question?** If baptism is not essential to salvation as so many believe, then why does the Bible use the phrase in 1 Peter 3:21, "*baptism doth also now save us.*" (KJV).

### THOSE TO SERVE May 2026

Announcements: C had

Lord's Table AM: Bobby & Perry

Lord's Table PM3-Bobby; 10-Perry; 17-Bobby;  
24-Perry

Opening Prayer AM; J3-James; 10-Jonnie; 17-Jimmy;  
24-Mike

Closing Prayer AM 3-Russell; 10-Don; 17-Jesse;  
24-Roy

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

Count Contribution: Bobby & Perry

**Ask Us About A FREE  
HOME BIBLE STUDY  
"Back to the Bible"  
To increase your  
knowledge of  
God's Word.**

**Here is how it works.**

We will set a time convenient for you to either come into your home or come to our building where we will sit down with open Bible's and study God's Word in

an informal setting.  
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[greenplaincoc@gmail.com](mailto:greenplaincoc@gmail.com)

**2 Timothy 2:15**

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fore physical death overtakes us. How much of your life has passed? How much life do you have left? These questions ought to make you think about what you are doing with your life! What is **YOUR** life?

**YOUR LIFE HAS A PURPOSE.** Sadly there are many who live their entire lives without understanding why they were born. They live for the moment and go with the flow—no sense of direction, no understanding of their real purpose in life. Is life about gaining wealth, prestige or popularity? Is life to be consumed with fulfilling one's fleshly desires? Is life to be just one big continuous self-indulgent party? Is there no grander more appealing goal than this for your life?

The truth is that the immediate purpose of life is to please God and thereby to make preparation to reach the ultimate goal of eternal life in heaven. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all"* (Eccl. 12:13). There is no greater goal for one's life than to forsake sin and conform oneself to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18). *"Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the*

*Lord, Who delights greatly in His commandments"* (Psalm 112:1). What is **YOUR** life?

**YOUR LIFE IS MEANINGLESS WITHOUT GOD.** One may accumulate a vast fortune, find a cure for the most dreaded of diseases known to man, discover an inexhaustible fuel source, solve all the economic woes of the world, or find a way to feed the starving populations of the world, but if one rejects God and His will, all that he has accomplished in his life, no matter how great and tremendous they may be by the world's standards, will be ultimately meaningless. *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Matthew 16:26). The only thing in life that really matters in the end is whether or not one has reached the cleansing blood of Jesus, had his sins washed away and lived faithful as a servant to the Lord—in other words, made preparation for heaven.

So, what is **YOUR** life, dear reader? In a hundred years will what you are doing in your life now mean anything? It will if you are spending your life preparing to exist with God in eternity. That is certainly our prayer and plea for you. Please, do not waste your precious life, but use it to the glory of God!

## WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT RELIGIOUS TITLES?

*By Jack Williams*

It is not uncommon in the religious world to hear the use of titles to distinguish or exalt one person from another. Reverend, Pastor, Bishop, Father, Rabbi, and more are used as titles in order to establish a class who are exalted above others. Though the practice may be common, that is not the standard. The real question we must ask is if it is in accord with God's Word (1 Peter 4:11). Let's see if we can find an answer

in the Bible.

The use of terms such as mentioned above is never found in an acceptable fashion in the Bible, unless they were simple descriptive terms. For example:

- We find men who were elders (as Peter spoke of in 1 Peter 5:1), but not a title such as "Elder Peter."
- We find all Christians described as saints (1 Corinthians 1:2), but never a refer-

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ence to one having a title such as “Saint Paul.”

□ We find men who were called deacons or bishops (Philippians 1:1), but never a reference to a title such as “Deacon Stephen” or “Bishop John.”

□ We find men who were evangelists (Acts 21:8), but never one with a title such as “Evangelist Philip.”

Changing descriptive terms such as these into religious titles is clearly without Biblical authority and thus stands condemned (Luke 6:46; Colossians 3:17). The use of such titles is of man and is thus condemned by our Lord (Matthew 15:9). The use of such titles was developed in an effort to set forth a class of “clergy” which was exalted over others. The closest parallel we can find to such an unholy practice is clearly condemned by our Lord in Matthew 23:2-11, where the Lord condemned those who sought to be “seen of men” (5). They sought their ungodly exaltation by demanding titles such as “Rabbi” or “Father” (7-9).

The next time you are approached by one who desires to be exalted to a position over others by wearing a title such as Reverend, Pastor, Bishop, Father, Deacon, and the like, why not take the time to discuss with them their Biblical authority for such a practice? No doubt you will soon be told about tradition or even told, “it doesn’t matter.” But one thing you will not be told is where to find Biblical authority for their practice.

(Matthew 23:9 “*And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.*” -

-- Giving the designation of “Father” to a pope or priest is out of harmony with what Jesus here says.

However, He should not be understood to be condemning the title to one’s real earthly father. tls)

—via: THE ENCOURAGER April 26, 2026

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**DO YOU HAVE THIS HOE?**  
**“in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,”**  
**Titus 1:2**

### 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**  
**“How Are You Walking?”**  
**Romans 8:1**

**SUNDAY WORSIP 6:00 PM**  
**“Doing What You Can Do”**  
**Mark 14:3-11**

**Wednesday 7:00 PM**  
**A Study of 2 Kings**

### What Must I Do to Be Saved?

1. **Hear** the gospel -Romans 10:17.
2. **Accept the Deity of Jesus Christ**—John 8:24.
3. **Repent** of sin—Acts 17:30.
4. **Confess** faith in Christ—Acts 8:36-38; Rom 10:9-10
5. **Be immersed in water**—Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:27.