



# THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 41

May 21, 2023

Number 20

## 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
- greenplainchurchofchrist.org

## ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS AND SKEPTICS

By Jonnie Hutchison

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines an “**atheist**” as “a person who does not believe in the existence of a god or any gods : one who subscribes to or advocates atheism.” An “**agnostic**” is defined as “a person who holds the view that any ultimate reality (such as God) is unknown and probably unknowable.” A “**skeptic**” is defined as “a person disposed to skepticism especially regarding religion or religious principles.”

An **atheist** does not believe in the existence of the God of the Bible. Because the atheist does not believe in God, he of necessity rejects the Bible as being the divinely inspired Word of God. To the atheist all religion that involves the existence of the God or any gods is merely the invention of men and is to be rejected as relevant to his life. The Bible says this about the atheist: “*The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.*” (Psalms 14:1), Atheists have no excuse for rejecting the abundant evidence for the existence of God. Romans 1:20-22

reads, “*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,*”<sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.<sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools.” Atheists have no objective standard of right and wrong, of morality or any hope beyond this life. Atheists are self-deceived and self-involved with no real sense of purpose or direction in life beyond their own physical self-indulgence. As unbelievers, atheists are destined to eternal separation from God in a devil’s hell. Revelation 21:8 reads, “*But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.*”

The **agnostic** claims he cannot know for sure that God

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**NEWS AND NOTES**

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain members:** Peggy Jarvis, Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder, and Hayes Grady. Hayes is scheduled for eye surgery on May 23rd. Marjorie Grady fell this past week and was airlifted to Nashville for treatment and observation. Remember our shut-ins in prayer.

**Family and Friends:** Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Kenneth Mizell, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Roger Rhoades, Bonnie Byerly, Tommy Boggess, David Lemmons, Betty Craft, Carlee Poole (Heart attack & pneumonia), and Kim Burrows who is one of our Bible Correspondence course students who is suffering hardship at this time.

**PATHWAYS CANS:** If you have any money cans for Pathways please bring them to services tonight. They will be taken to Pathways this week. See Bobby Hall if you have any questions.

**PANTRY ITEMS May 2023:** 7—Peanut Butter; 14-Mixed Vegies; 21—Green Beans; 28-Jelly or Jams. All items must be non-perishable or canned.

**May 2023; Anniversaries:** None. **Birthdays:** 27-Ann Thompson; 29-Mary Vincent.

**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.

Were you baptized believing you were already saved? Jesus said, “He who **believes AND is baptized** shall be saved....” (Mark 16:16). He did not say “He who believes shall be saved and then baptized.” Was your “baptism” for the right reason? (See Acts 2:38; 22:16).

<p>Lost – without Christ (Ephesians 2:12)</p> <p>Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:17)</p> <p>Believe the Gospel (John 8:24)</p> <p>Repent of your Sins (Acts 17:30)</p> <p>Confess Faith in Christ (Romans 10:10)</p> <p>Baptism (Acts 22:16)</p> <p>Saved – in Christ (Galatians 3:27)</p>	<p><b>THE GOSPEL 24/7</b></p> <p><b>GBNTV.ORG</b> <i>Study the Bible Online</i></p>
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exists in spite of the evidence he sees all around him. The Bible says to the agnostic, ***“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world”*** (Psalm 19:1-4). The agnostic needs to open his eyes to the handiwork of God and listen with his ears to the voices of God’s creation which declare His existence.

The **skeptic** doubts both God’s existence and His Word. The characteristics of the skeptic is described in 2 Peter 3:3-7, *“knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,<sup>4</sup> and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.”<sup>5</sup> For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water,<sup>6</sup> by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.<sup>7</sup> But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”* The skeptic refuses to acknowledge God because it would mean giving up the sinful lifestyle he has chosen to live. As Jesus said, *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because*

*their deeds were evil”* (John 3:19). The skeptic has the ability to know the truth but refuses to acknowledge that he can know. Thus he remains “willfully ignorant”. Jesus said, *“You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”* (John 8:32). There is such a thing as absolute truth whether skeptics acknowledge it or not.

The view of the atheist, the agnostic and the skeptic does nothing to change the fact of God’s existence nor the divine authority of His revelation in the Bible. The atheist, agnostic and skeptic all have one common characteristic—**they are all unbelievers**. They do not believe in God, Jesus Christ or that the Bible is God’s revelation of His will to mankind. But here is something else that these three groups will share in common. When they see the Lord coming in the clouds with His holy angels, the unbelief of the atheist will turn into absolute belief, the doubts of the agnostic will turn into certainty and the willing ignorance of the skeptic will change to absolute knowledge. However, at that point it will be too late and eternal regret will replace the arrogance of the atheist, the agnostic and the skeptic (2 Thess. 1:7-10; Revelation 1:7).

Dear reader, study the Bible for yourself for it answers every argument of unbelief and creates faith in God (Romans 10:17). The salvation of your soul is too important for you not to take the time and make the effort to find the truth about the existence of the God of the Bible. God loves you and we are praying for you!

*“Do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”* (Romans 6:3). Since the Bible teaches that one is baptized into Christ, what is one’s spiritual location without baptism? The only logical answer is that one who has not been baptized into Christ is still outside

of Christ. Since salvation is only “in Christ” (2 Timothy 2:10) and one who has not been baptized is not yet in Christ then it follows that baptism is necessary to both getting into Christ and being saved. ***“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also***

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### THOSE TO SERVE MAY 2023

**Announcements:** Chad Canter

**Lord's Table AM:** Roy Wyatt & Junior Morris

**Lord's Table PM:** 7-Roy; 14-Junior; 21-Roy; 28-Junior

**Opening Prayer AM**

7-Jonnie; 14-Bobby; 21-James; 28-Jim L.

**Closing Prayer PM**

7-Dave; 14-Mike; 21-Jesse; 28-Don

**Song Leaders**

AM-Perry; PM-Mike; Wed-Chad

Count Contribution: Roy & Junior

#### 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**

**Book of Acts**

**SUNDAY AM WORSHIP 10:45**

**"Conviction or Convenience"**

**SUNDAY PM WORSIP 6:00**

**"Judas the Betrayer"**

**WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM**

**Book of Matthew**

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*now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).*

**BAPTIZED INTO**

**Romans 6:3-5  
Galatians 3:26-27**

**1 Peter 3:21  
Mark 16:16  
Acts 2:38**

## IN CHRIST

Salvation—2 Tim. 2:10  
All Spiritual Blessings—Eph. 1:3  
Redemption—Rom. 3:24  
Sanctified—1 Cor. 1:2  
New Creature—2 Cor. 5:17  
Children of God  
Gal. 3:26-27

## OUTSIDE

**NO** Salvation—**NO** Redemption—**NO** Spiritual Blessings—**NO** Sanctification—An **Old Creature**—**Not** A Child of God



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