



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 45

May 3, 2026

Number 16

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
RD
Hazel, KY 42049
- Phone:
(270) 492-8206
- Email:
greenplaincoc
@gmail.com
- Web Site
• greenplain-
churchofchrist.org

BEFORE ALL ELSE FAILS

By Jonnie Hutchison

Sometime ago we bought a stand for our television and other components which required assembly. Like most men, I begin to assemble the various pieces without first reading the directions. Initially it seemed so simple. Yet, as I progressed I begin to discover that it was much more complicated than I thought. When you have pieces left over that should not be left over you realize the importance of reading the directions. As the old saying goes, **“If all else fails, read the directions.”** Though that sounds good, when you have failed, it’s too late to then read the directions. It is better to work on the premise **“BEFORE all else fails, read the directions.”**

The Bible is the revelation of God’s plan for man’s salvation from sin. It contains the necessary directions for properly responding to God’s offer of forgiveness through the blood of Jesus (Matthew 26:28; Romans 1:16-17). The book of Psalms tells us that God’s word is *“a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”* (Psalm 119:105). No one has it within his or her ability, apart from God’s Word, to know

the way of salvation (Jeremiah 10:23). Saving faith is produced only through the hearing of the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Each of us need to “read the directions” if we hope to have eternal salvation.

The ultimate spiritual failure is the loss of ones soul in the eternal punishment of hell (Matthew 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). Such a loss is compounded by the fact that God has given both the means and ample opportunity to escape hell. Any person who desires salvation from hell can obtain it by learning and following God’s directions. In this it is vital that one read God’s directions **BEFORE all else fails**, for when death or the Lord comes, ones eternal destiny is sealed and there are no second chances.

*“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they **received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily** to find out whether these things were so.” **Acts 17:11***

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, Dianna Travis, and Mike Ernstberger. As of this writing Joan Lathrop remains in Murray Hospital.

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 Tim Bishop (Gail’s brother).

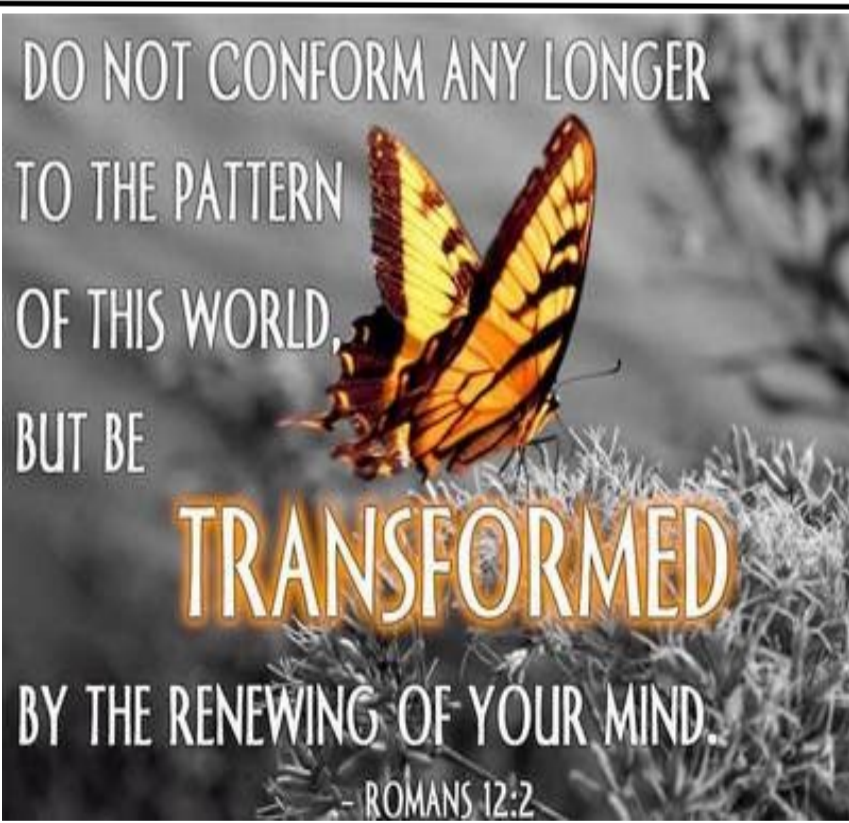
PANTRY ITEMS May 2026: 3-Corn; 10-Green Beans; 17-Spinach; 24-Beets. All items must be **non-perishable or canned.**

April 2026; BIRTHDAYS: 27-Ann Thompson; 229-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 resume tomorrow evening, May 4th at 7:00 pm. Due to ongoing health issues Dan Sikes will be unable to continue as our teacher, but Larry Powers has graciously agreed to continue our study on the book of Revelation. We hope to see you there!

Jesus siad, “But eek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).
Are you?



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. Call 270-978-7569 or email greenplaincoc@gmail.com
2 Timothy 2:15

WE MUST LOSE TO GAIN *By Mike Riley*

On my grandfather's farm was a field he sowed by hand. He would strap on a canvas contraption similar to a kangaroo pouch, fill it with seed, and go out to sow. He would cast seed everywhere. When a farmer sows seed in his field, it looks like he's throwing the seed away. It seems to be lost, but it isn't really gone. In due time he gets it back with much more than he started out with.

When we give ourselves to Christ, it may seem to the world as if we're throwing our life away. But the Lord tells us that it is only as we lose our lives in Him that we find true life (Matthew 10:39). Jesus teaches us to measure our lives by losses rather than gains, by sacrifices rather than self-preservation, by time spent for others rather than time lavished upon ourselves, by love poured out rather than love poured in.

It's an eternal principle of life: God

blesses those who give of their lives and resources (2 Corinthians 9:6). If we give out the truth of God's word to others, He'll give us more to give away. If we give of our time, and we'll have more time to give. If we set no limit on our love, we'll have more love for others than before. The Proverb writer tells us, "There is one who scatters, yet increases more" (Proverbs 11:24). It's one of the oldest paradoxes in the world, but it works. The British poet, William Wordsworth (1770-1850), also stated a great truth regarding our giving: "We lose what on ourselves we spend; We have as treasure without end Whatever, Lord, to You we lend, Who givest all."

The bottom line is: When we are selfish, we lose; when we give to God by helping others in need, we gain (Matthew 25:31-46).

—GEWATKINS.NET

The Day The Cricket Preached *By Dan Gulley*

Distractions are common in worship. The following story from an unknown author reminds us that at church we encounter both the marvelous and the mundane. What we see depends on where we choose to look.

As a youth, I squirmed through many a worship service. This particular Sunday was to have an added distraction. As soon as the preacher got up to deliver his sermon, a cricket walked out onto the stage. He probably came from one of the cracks that were to be found most anywhere in the old building. Everyone in the first three rows saw the cricket. He looked dazed, and stumbled near the edge of the pulpit area. Our eyes followed his every step. We could see that he had to come to the other edge again, and we shouted

to ourselves, "Jump! Jump!" But alas, the cricket did not jump. Time after time he walked back and forth. I don't know if the sermon was any good that day, but the cricket was sure fun to watch. When the invitation song began, we all stood up and watched the cricket run. He almost got stepped on when the song leader walked toward the microphone, and we all laughed. Then my laughter turned to amazement. Someone had gone forward! My dad. He wasn't a Christian, and my mom and I had been trying for years to get him to come to church services with us, to no avail until today. Now the preacher was taking him back to baptize him.

"Dad," I asked later, "What made you

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

want to be baptized today?” Dad asked, “Didn’t you hear how Jesus gave His life for us so that we could be saved?” I hung my head in shame. The beautiful message of the Bible did not reach me that day. I had been watching the cricket. To this day, I believe that cricket was preaching to me. He was saying, “Watch me! Jesus isn’t important. I’m more fun!”

Since then there have been many more crickets walk across the stage: fretful babies, sneezes, coughs, etc. A lot of things will tend to distract a person from worshiping God. But I learned my lesson. God is more important than anything.

Every time God’s Word is being preached, the devil is nearby! Jesus said: *“And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts”* (Mark 4:15).

What ‘cricket’ are you watching in worship?

via: THE BULLETIN OF THE 39th STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST, January 28, 2018 via Sharon church of Christ, Sharon, TN



One of the most important things you can and should do every day is to

**STUDY THE WORD OF GOD!
But it will do little good unless
YOU APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE!**

James 1:22

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
“Does Absence Make the Heart Grow Fonder?”

SUNDAY WORSHIP 6:00 PM
To Be Announced

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.