



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 45

August 9, 2026

Number 30

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

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- Green Plain
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“EXAMINE YOURSELVES” By Jonnie Hutchison

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you are disqualified” (2 Corinthians 13:5 NKJV).

Most of us are more inclined to actively engage in critically examining the lives of others than our own. One reason for that is the ease at which such examination may be done. It is much more uncomfortable for us to look at ourselves than it is at others. Yet, the Bible is very clear when it says, “*examine yourselves.*”

For what is the Christian to look in this self-examination? The scripture answers, “*as to whether you are in the faith....*” What does it mean to be “in the faith?” The faith is the gospel of Christ revealed in the New Testament. Therefore, to be in the faith is to be abiding faithful to the teaching of the Word of God. Obviously such an examination would include the necessity of knowing what “the faith” requires of us. As you compare your life to the faith do you see anything in your life that is lacking? Are you participating in anything that the faith forbids? Are you leaving anything undone that the faith commands?

There is also the admonition to “*test yourselves.*” The Greek word translated “test” [*dokimazoo*] is the idea of proving oneself. As one engages in a self-examination based upon the

standard of “the faith” (God’s word) he will prove himself either faithful or unfaithful. If one finds in his self-examination that he is living faithful to God then he is approved and will know that Jesus Christ is in him. On the other hand, if one finds in his self-examination that he is living in unfaithfulness then he is disqualified or unapproved having failed the test. In the latter case the words of Lamentations 3:40 apply, “*Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the Lord.*”

One of the reasons why God designed worship the way that He has is to help us in this obligation to “*examine yourselves.*” A self-examination before partaking of the Lord’s Supper is enjoined in 1 Corinthians 11:28—“*But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.*” The words of the songs we sing in worship are designed to assist us in our self-examination as we “*teach and admonish one another*” (Col. 3:16). The preaching of the gospel in the assembly is designed to “*reprove, rebuke and exhort*” us in examining ourselves (2 Tim. 4:2). Even giving on the first day of the week requires us to examine ourselves as to our motive and amount (2 Cor. 9:7). Let us each endeavor to engage in the Lord’s desire for us to “*examine yourselves*”!



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 Wyatt, Marie Wyatt, and Mary and Jesse Vincent.

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 Joanne Hutchison.

July 2026; ANNIVERSERIES: 13th-Gail & Jonnie Hutchison. **BIRTHDAYS:** 4th-Teresa Enoch; 21st-Jackie Spiceland. 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>.

WHAT IS YOUR SOUL WORTH?

*“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own **soul**? Or what will a man give in exchange for his **soul**?” Mark. 8:36-37.*

Of all the material possessions and wealth in this world, none of it is as valuable as **your eternal soul**! None of it is worth existing in eternity separated from your God! **Jesus offers salvation for your soul! Will you accept it?**

THOSE TO SERVE August 2026

Announcements: Chad

Lord's Table AM: Bobby & Perry

Lord's Table PM: 2-Bobby; 9-Perry; 16-Bobby;
23-Perry; 30-Bobby

Opening Prayer AM: 2-James; 9-Jonnie; 16-Jimmy;
23-Mike; 30-Chad

Closing Prayer AM 2-Russell; 9-Don; 16-Jesse;
23-Roy; 30-Jonnie

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

Count Contribution: Bobby & Perry

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Fall Gospel Meeting
September 13-17, 2026

With Alan Adams

**Fall 2026 School of
Biblical Studies**

Sept. 21-Nov.9

Revelation—Larry Powers

1&2 Peter—Jack Phillips

Both Old and New Testaments Teach Heaven Is Not on Earth

By Billy Bland

While man will live forever, it will not be on the earth. In fact, Peter, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote that when Jesus comes again, the heavens and the earth shall be **“burned up.”** Peter stated:

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (2 Peter 3:10-12 NKJV)

Would not even a casual reader of the above text understand the earth and the works that are therein shall be **burned up**? Some, however, might ask, “But does not the context also mention a new heaven and a new earth?” Yes, it does. After saying the earth will be burned up when the Lord returns, Peter then said, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). The new heavens and the new earth are used as a figure for describing the future dwelling of God’s people. They are used in both the Old and New Testament (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22).

The current dwelling place of God’s people serve as a figure of the future dwelling place eternally in (the third) heaven (Matthew 5:12; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 1:5; 1 Peter 1:4; et al), the “new heavens and new earth” figuratively represent the spiritual (not physical) dwelling place of the righteous. (cf., 1 Corinthians 15:48-54). This is one of the many examples in the Bible where physical symbols are used to illustrate spiritual concepts. (cf., 1 Corinthians 15:22, 45; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 12:22-31; 1 Peter 2:5-9; 3:20-21; et al) (Moore)

Old Testament saints knew Heaven was the eternal home of the soul. King David knew his

dead son could **not return** to him, but he could **go** to him. He said, “But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me” (2 Samuel 12:23). Obviously, David did not believe in a *renovated* earth. His son would **not return to him** on earth, but he would **go to him**. Abraham and his offspring knew they were strangers and pilgrims on earth, and they looked for a heavenly city. The writer of Hebrews stated:

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:13-16)

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, affirmed our eternal home is “in the heavens” and not here on earth. “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, **eternal in the heavens**” (2 Corinthians 5:1). Since it is **“eternal in the Heavens,”** it will never be here upon the earth. Paul also said the Christian’s hope is **“laid up for you in Heaven.”** To the saints in Colosse, Paul said, “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel” (Colossians 1:3-5). Since our hope is laid up for us **in Heaven**, it is not laid up for us on the earth. Jesus taught, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves

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treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21). Jesus contrasted **Earth** with **Heaven**.

The writer of Hebrews stated, “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence **behind the veil**, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 6:19-20). Our hope is “**behind the veil**” – where Jesus has entered (Heaven). Likewise, Paul stated that our affections should be on things which are above where Christ dwells. “If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God**. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth...” (Colossians 3:1-5). Paul repeatedly contrasted the words above and Earth. The Christians’ affections and hopes are on the above and not on the Earth. Paul reminded Christians that a child of God’s citizenship is in Heaven where Christ is. “For our citizenship is **in heaven**, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3:20).

Finally, attention is given to the fact that our living hope and our inheritance is laid up for us **in Heaven**. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, **reserved in heaven for you**, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:3-5). Peter affirmed that the Christian’s inheritance is **reserved in Heaven**. The Christian looks forward to the time he will go to Heaven. There, he will be with God and with all of the redeemed from all ages. **May we each so live that Heaven will be our eternal home** (Matthew 25:31-46).

Works Cited

Moore, Kevin. “What is Meant by the New Heaven and the New Earth.” *Moore Perspective*. 5 Oct. 2016. 15 Oct. 2023. <<https://kmooreperspective.blogspot.com/2016/10/what-is-meant-by-new-heavens-and-new.html>>.

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
“Is the Restoration Plea Still Valid?”

SUNDAY WORSIP 6:00 PM
“Who Was Judas Iscariot?”

Wednesday 7:00 PM
A Study of 2 Kings

Salvation Requires Me To...

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.
6. **Be a faithful servant and Steward**—1 Cor. 4:2; Rev12:10