



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 42

September 15, 2024

Number 35

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;
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

THE SECRET TO CHURCH GROWTH

By B.J. Clarke

The secret to church growth is really no secret. It is plainly revealed within the pages of God's word. You don't have to travel hundreds of miles to a soul-winning workshop to unlock the secret of church growth. You don't have to travel to the bookstore to purchase the latest volume written to reveal the mystery of church growth. Just travel over to the bookcase, pull down your copy of the sacred writings, open it to the New Testament and start reading.

Read of the life and ministry of Jesus. Read of how Jesus preached peace and went about doing good (Jn. 16:33; Acts 10:38). Read of how he demonstrated his love for the lost (Mk. 10:21; Jn. 15:13). Read of how he spoke the truth in love without ever compromising (Mt. 15:3-14). Read of the Jerusalem church and their common love for Christ and one another (Acts 2:44-47; 4:32-37). Read of how the first century Christians went everywhere preaching the word (Acts 8:4).

Read of the tremendous sacrifices endured by the Apostle Paul so that the cause of Christ might be advanced (2 Cor. 11:23-28). Note the duties and qualifications of elders and deacons (1 Tim. 3:1-13). Read the epistles to understand God's will for each member of the Lord's body. After you've read and read and read some more, read Revelation 1:3 to learn that just reading is not enough. We must read and then live out that which we have read.

What is the secret of church growth? When preachers speak the truth in love, (Eph. 4:15) and reprove, rebuke and exhort with all long suffering, (2 Tim. 4:2) the church will grow. When elders shepherd the flock properly under the direction of the Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:1-4), the church will grow. When deacons serve well, it will be well with them and the growth of the church (1 Tim. 3:13; Acts 6:1-7).

When each member seeks

(Continued on page 3)

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Green Plain Members: Peggy Jarvis , Maxine Pool, Jim Fielder (Spring Creek) Hayes Grady, Marjorie Grady, Jim and Mary Lowrie. Marie Wyatt (Spring Creek), Joan Lathrop, Jackie Spiceland and Dave & Ann Thompson.

Family and Friends: Ted Lovett, Jerry Lovett, Teresa Tacker, Dale Pentecost, Brett Wyatt, Kim Burrows, Nat Evans, Lucetria Hutchison, Ted Clark, Larry and Rose Wyatt, Tonya Morris, Gina Hutchison, Donald Cook and Teri Mercer.

OUR FALL GOSPEL MEETING with our brother John Sales is now history. John did an excellent job in presenting the lessons he prepared. Thank you John. We had good attendance and much support from area congregations. Thanks to all who participated, those who provided food for our potluck and fed the preachers, and invited others to attend. Pray that fruit may continue to abound from this effort.

PANTRY ITEMS Sept. 2024: 1-Ketchup; 8-Mustard; – Mayonnaise; 22-Sweet Relish; 29-Miracle Whip. All items must be **non-perishable or canned**.

September 2024; Anniversaries: None. **Birthdays:** 4-Jane Morris; 20-Peggy Jarvis; 27-Diana Travis; 28-Carolyn Byars.

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.

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. This is a great way to increase your Bible knowledge. Enroll Today!

THOSE TO SERVE September 2024

announcements: Mike Ernstberger

Lord's Table AM: James & Chad

Lord's Table PM: 1-Chad; 8-James; 15; Chad;
22-James; 28-Chad

Opening Prayer AM: 1-Bobby; 8- Jonnie;
15-Perry; 22-Mike; 28-Russell

Closing Prayer AM: 1-Roy; 8-Dave; 15-Jesse;
22-Junior; 29-Chad

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

Count Contribution: James & Chad

SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

Sept 16-Nov 4, 2024

**Each Consecutive Monday
7-9 pm**

**“A Study of Parables”
Larry Powers**

**“A Study of Hebrews” Part 1
Jonnie Hutchison**

Everyone is Invited!!

(Continued from page 1)

to live like Christ and to love like Christ, the church will grow. Simply put, the church will grow when every part of the body does its

share (Eph. 4:16). This is God's plan and it will not fail.

—[power-0316.pdf \(southavencoc.org\)](#)

WHEN TIME IS NO MORE *By Jonnie Hutchison*

Most of us probably take **time** for granted. We speak of tomorrow as if there is no possibility that it will not come or that time could possibly come to an end. The inspired writer of the New Testament book of James informs us that tomorrow is uncertain and that we should take that into consideration as we make our plans. *“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that” (James 4:13-15).* The truthfulness of these verses cannot be successfully denied. Each of us have made plans for tomorrow only to have something happen which changed those plans. We do not know what will happen tomorrow!

Time is a commodity of this life. At the coming of Christ time will have served its purpose and will cease, giving way to eternity.

WHEN TIME IS NO MORE every person who has ever lived upon this earth will inhabit either heaven or hell. Jesus pictured the Judgment Day in the words, *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on*

His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:31-34, 41). Dear reader, if time ceased today where would you exist for eternity? Would you exist in heaven or hell?

WHEN TIME IS NO MORE all opportunity to change ones eternal destination will have ceased. There are no second chances to be saved apart from this present time. When time ceases so will the opportunity to prepare to enter into heaven. The scripture admonishes each of us, *“Behold, **now** is the accepted time; behold **now** is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2b).* Dear reader, are you using your time now to prepare yourself spiritually to enter into heaven? Please, don't put your preparation off for when time is no more it will be too late.

WHEN TIME IS NO MORE many of the things that seem so important to us in this life will be meaningless. The time wasted in indulging in the pleasures of sin and the time spent striving for riches, power and prestige to the neglect of God will result in eternal regret. Precious souls will cry out in agony, *“How could I have been so foolish as to waste my time!”* The Bible admonishes us, *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16).* To “redeem the time” is to use it properly in view of eternity. It requires looking beyond

this present existence realizing that time is temporary while eternity is our future. We plead with you, dear reader, do not allow yourself to be caught up in worldliness to the neglect of your soul! Redeem the time for when time is no more it will be too late to put first what really matters in this life!

WHEN TIME IS NO MORE every person will know that the Bible is the Word of God and that God's plan for man's salvation revealed therein is absolute truth. It will be affirmed in the mind of every person that without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Each one will realize that when Jesus said that one must repent or perish that He spoke absolute truth (Luke 13:3, 5). Many will fail to confess Jesus in time but when time is no more every person will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:11). When time is no more those who have denied that baptism into Christ is essential to salvation will see clearly that it is in obedience to the Lord's command of baptism that one reaches the death of Christ and thus the cleansing blood of the Savior which washes away sin (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Revelation 2:10). Sadly, it will be too late to obey these commands of the Lord when time is no more.

WHEN TIME IS NO MORE every person will understand that one can be saved only through Jesus Christ. Each will acknowledge the truth, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

As you are reading this article time is passing. That means that your opportunities to prepare for eternity are also swiftly passing away. Dear reader, we beg you, utilize your time wisely in making the necessary preparation so that you can receive the forgiveness of sins through the precious blood of Jesus and have the hope of existing in eternity with God in heaven. Please, don't wait until **TIME IS NO MORE!**

"Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."

-James 4:14-15-

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 Matthew"

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 AM

"Evangelism Matters"

SUNDAY WORSIP 6:00 PM

"Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

Wednesday 7:00 PM

"A Study of Ecclesiastes"



A Bi-Biweekly Podcast Available wherever you get your Podcasts