



THE GREEN PLAIN PROCLAIMER

Volume 27

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Number 34

ELDERS

John Brinkley
Rex Enoch
Hayes Grady
Billy Joe Stubblefield
Bobby Ward

DEACONS

Robert Barrett
Larry Enoch
Rob Enoch
Bobby Hall
Max Henry
Robert Meredith
Jesse Vincent
Eddie Ward

PREACHER

Robert Meredith
Telephone:
(270) 492-8206

Our
GOSPEL MEETING
at the
**GREEN PLAIN
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
will be
September 13-17, 2009
Gary Colley, Speaker

Service Times:

Sunday Morning - 10:00 am & 10:45 am
Sunday Evening - 7:30 pm
Monday - Thursday Evenings - 7:00 pm

There will be a potluck dinner after the Sunday morning service.



What If Christ Had Come To Establish An Earthly Kingdom And Had Succeeded? Billy Bland

The Word of God clearly taught that Jesus Christ was coming to the earth, He fulfilled the many prophecies which foretold His first coming, and He accomplished the purpose of His first coming. In fact, just prior to His dying on the cross, He stated, *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). When Christ came, He established the spiritual kingdom, the church, which was foretold by Old Testament prophets (Isaiah 2:1-4; Matthew 16:18-19; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28). The same Word of God that foretold Christ's first coming also clearly teaches that Jesus is coming the second time: *"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation"* (Hebrews 9:28; see also John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).

So the Bible teaches that Christ came to the earth to offer redemption for man through His sacrifice, and He is coming again to judge the world. He will receive unto Himself all who have accepted

His atonement, and He will reject all those who have spurned His invitation (Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

However, there is a system of doctrine, known as “Dispensational Premillennialism,” that teaches that Christ came to this earth for the purpose of establishing an earthly kingdom, but was rejected by the nation of Israel, and as result of their rejection, Jesus postponed the earthly kingdom, and will establish it when He comes again. An advocate of this doctrine stated: “The kingdom did come ‘nigh’ when Christ came, and had they received Him, it would have been manifested, but now it is in abeyance, or waiting, until He comes again” (Blackstone, 88). Another person stated: “When Christ came the first time, Israel, as a nation, did not repent and the kingdom was postponed. When Christ comes the second time, Israel will repent and will receive their Messiah, even as Jesus predicted in Matthew 23:39 (and compare Zechariah 12:10-14)” (Middletown, np).

So, the teaching of Premillennialism is that Christ came to establish His kingdom, but because the Jews rejected Jesus, He had to postpone its establishment, but He will come back the second time and establish the kingdom. There are many problems with such a doctrine. First of all, it simply is not true. Second, Christ’s kingdom was not postponed, as there are many passages that speak of Christ’s kingdom as currently being in existence: “*Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire*” (Hebrews 12:28-29).

What many advocates of the postponement theory fail to see are the ramifications of their false doctrine. What are the implications of the doctrine that Christ came to earth to establish an earthly kingdom and to reign on earth as King? If the kingdom had come the way the premillennialists think, then notice what would have to follow.

(1) **The love of God would not have been**

manifested the way that it was. If Christ had come to establish an earthly kingdom and the Jews had received Him, then Christ would have established His kingdom and would not have died on the cross. Yet, the Bible says: “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16).

(2) **There would have been no redemption for mankind.** Without the shedding of blood there is no remission (Hebrews 9:22). Yet, animal sacrifices were inadequate for man’s redemption (Hebrews 10:4). It took the precious blood of Christ for our redemption: “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers: But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*” (1 Peter 1:18-20). But according to the postponement theory, if Christ had not been rejected (put to death), then He would have established an earthly kingdom (and would not have died for our sins). This would have left man without redemption!

(3) **There would not have been the Gospel.** The facts of the Gospel are the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). If Christ had established an earthly kingdom, rather than being rejected and dying for our sins, then there would not have been the facts of the Gospel.

(4) **The church of Christ would not have been established.** The postponement theory affirms that the church was set up instead of the earthly kingdom—because of rejection of Christ. So the church comes into the picture as sort of a substitute. Yet, the Bible shows that the church was purchased by the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). If Christ had not shed His blood, the church would not be in existence. Premillennialism minimizes the importance of Christ’s church, whereas the Bible shows that it was in the eternal purpose of God, and that through which we glo-

rify God (Ephesians 3:10-11, 21).

(5) **There would not have been the Book of Acts.** The Book of Acts is a history of the Lord's church. However, if the church had not been established, obviously it would have no history!

(6) **There would not have been the Epistles.** Most of the epistles are written to churches, with the others being addressed to individual Christians. Again, if the church had not been established, there would have been no letters written to the churches.

(7) **The New Testament would not exist.** While the Old Testament was dedicated with the blood of animals (Hebrews 9:19-20), the New Testament is dedicated by the blood of Christ. Jesus said: "*For this is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*" (Matthew 26:28). But again, if Christ had not shed His blood (because He would have been received and established His earthly kingdom), then the New Testament would not have been dedicated by His blood.

Conclusion

These are only a few of the ramifications of the false doctrine of Premillennialism and in particular the postponement theory. Christ was successful in What He came to accomplish. He established the kingdom just as was promised by God. It is not (nor was it intended to be) a political kingdom, but rather is spiritual and is comprised of the redeemed in Christ. When Christ came to His death at the cross, He did not say, "*It is postponed,*" He stated, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30).

Works Cited

Blackstone, W.E., Jesus is Coming, Revell Co. Old Tappan, NJ, 1932.

<http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org/dispn/postpone.htm>



Prayer List: Brent Klinzing (Pansy Henry's grandson), Cara Meredith, Mike Thurmond (friend of Roy Wyatt), Joan Turnbow (Betty Enoch's mother), Gail Wright and any who may be in need of our prayers.

Shut-ins: Anne Brinkley, Tom Meredith & Mary Miller.

News at Green Plain

Evangelism Packets: If you know of someone who would be a good evangelistic prospect, we have packets made up that would make it easier for them to understand the truth. See Robert Meredith if you need a packet to give to someone.

5th Sunday: Sunday night, the 30th, will be singing night. Following the worship service there will be a **Men's Business Meeting** and then a **Fellowship Meal**.

Ladies Day: Macedonia Church of Christ (Dresden, TN), Saturday, August 29th beginning at **10:00 am**. The speaker will be **Cindy Colley**.

Brent wanted us to let everyone know how very much he enjoyed all of the cards he received. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. The incision is healing and he is able to put 1/4 of his weight on his ankle. He will see the surgeon again Thursday of this week. In Christian love,
Max & Pansy Henry

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK

"Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." Matthew 7:21

ATTENDANCE August 23, 2009

Bible Study	76	Worship P.M.	65
Worship A.M.	99	Mid-week (8-19)	59

GREEN PLAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST
3980 MURRAY PARIS ROAD
HAZEL, KY 42049

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hazel, KY
Permit No. 6

The church building is located
southeast of Murray -
One mile off highway 641 -
Near the corner of the Green
Plain and Murray Paris Roads

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**THOSE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
August 2009**

USHERS: Eddie Ward & Robert Barrett
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chad Canter

PRESIDE AT THE LORD'S TABLE:
A.M.: Max Henry & James Pigg
Substitute: Bobby Hall

ASSIST AT THE LORD'S TABLE :
A.M.: Frank Towery & Preston Barrett
Substitute: Robert Meredith

Sunday P.M.
8-30.....Frank Pool

SCRIPTURE READING:
8-30.....Larry Enoch (Ezek. 18:19-24)

OPENING PRAYER:
8-30.....Rex Enoch

CLOSING PRAYER:
8-30.....Frank Towery

COUNT CONTRIBUTION:
Robert Barrett & Paul Brandon

SONG LEADERS:
Sunday Morning...Charles Enoch
Sunday Evening....Larry Enoch
Wednesday.....Bill Stubblefield
Substitute.....James Pigg

COLLECT COMMUNION CUPS:
Matthias Meredith & Kye Luffman

GREETERS: Chad & Vicki Canter
LAWN CARE: Larry Enoch

If you are unable to serve, please contact
Jesse Vincent at 293-1537.

 **Matthew 20**

1. In the parable of the Vineyard, at what hours did the householder call laborers?
2. Why were some standing idle?
3. Who came to Jesus wanting her sons to be Jesus' top two men?
4. According to Jesus, how is one great?

1. Early, 3rd, 6th, 9th, 11th (vs. 1, 3, 5, 6)
2. No man had hired them (v. 7)
3. Mother of Zebedee's children (vs. 20)
4. Being a minister (servant) (vs. 26-27)

**Remember to
bring snacks for
the hospital.**

**Pantry Item
Tuna**

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday:

Bible Classes.....10:00 A.M.
Worship.....10:45 A.M.
Evening Worship.....6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 P.M.
For transportation call 492-8206
"A Friendly Welcome Awaits You"

RADIO PROGRAMS

WORDS OF LIFE RADIO BROADCAST
Weekdays, 11:30 AM.WNBS RADIO (1340 AM) Murray, KY

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES RADIO BROADCAST
Sunday, 7:30 A.M...WNBS RADIO (1340 AM) Murray, KY

PHONE:(270) 492-8206

WEB SITE: www.greenplain.org

EMAIL ADDRESS: greenplain@greenplain.org

**SERMON TOPICS FOR
August 30, 2009**

A.M. - How Does One Leave Christ?

P.M. - Singing Night

WHAT ONE MUST DO TO BE SAVED

Hear the gospel
Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17

Believe
Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6

Repent
Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess faith in Christ
Mt. 10:32, Acts 8:37, Rom. 10:10

Be baptized (immersed)
*Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:47-48; 22:16;
Rom. 6:1-6; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21*

Continue faithful unto death
Mt. 25:21,34; 2 Pt. 1:1-11; Rev. 2:10; 1 Jn. 1:6-9