

## SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Sixty Years" Since October 21, 1961*

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### *Please Join Us As We Pray For:*

All of Our Military, Their Family's & All the Civilian Workers in The Middle East, Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, and Brother Philip Thornsberry, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Buckie Thompson, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Tyrell Loyd, Ted O'Bonion, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Danny Mollette, cousin Kayla, Lee & Mary Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ronnie Henderson Jr. & Children, Ricky Henderson and Family, Velma Hammond, Don Hammond and Families, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Gina and Kirk, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Diane Thomas, Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Vickie Adkins, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, David Henderson and Wife, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Roselyn Pardillo and Family and those that work with her, Hailey Beaver, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Brother Dan and Sunny Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

### *Thoughts from our Pastor:*

#### **"No condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."**

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1*

In the religion called Christianity works for salvation is a must if you do not live a sufficient life in the scriptures, you will not be allowed into heaven when you are before Jesus Christ the Judge of all mankind. I'm most grateful to my gracious God that I am a Christian and not a "religionist Christian". You might ask "what is the difference, I'm so glad you asked. The definition of the word "religion" is - a **particular system of faith** and worship. The word "religion" is a system of salvation, it is not based on salvation in Jesus the Christ but on a human accomplishment. By "human accomplishments" I mean - "humanistic values" or basically depending on a self-accomplished salvation. These people never enjoy a satisfaction on this earth of assured salvation, they will never know until the judgment seat whether they will be allowed to enter heaven, only to find they're not God's child. When proper thought is given to the religionist thinking it is very scary to anyone who thinks of themselves as a Christian. You can live all your life as a "morally" good person and die with one unrepented sin and go to hell. Another flaw to it is that if one sins, they are supposed to repent and be saved again, and again, and again, etc. Why? Well I'm glad you asked again, because every single sin, no matter how large or small is the same in God's eyes, because a breaking of any law is sin. "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*" 1 John 3:4 Sin is in our nature, we are sinners by birth, we are sinners because Adam sinned not because we sin, our condemnation is because of Adam's sin not ours. Jesus said this, "*Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*" John 8:34 The word "servant" means -a servant or bonded to sin- which means we cannot live and not sin because it is our fleshly nature that we were born with. **Therefore, all "religionist Christian's" will go to hell when they die,** because God said, "*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*" 1 John 3:8 This is why God said, "***Not of works, lest any man should boast.***" Ephesians 2:9 This single verse destroys all "religionist Christian" belief that works is any part of salvation, how can one ever live a sin free life on this earth? Oh, isn't this not enough proof that works are not part of our salvation, ok then read these scriptures, Rom. 3:20,

3:27-28, 4:2, 9:11, 9:16, 11:6; 1Cor. 1:29-31; 2Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:3-5. I could spend all my time on this, but I will not, but not one single verse when used in context tells a sinner they are saved by “religionist Christian” teachings. There is no such thing as a “religionist Christian” because Christianity is not a religious system it is about a man, God’s Son Jesus the Christ.

In man, salvation is impossible, but in one single man all sinners can be saved, **all that Jesus died for will be saved**. When Jesus told the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, who was a ruler of the Jews that he must be born again, Jesus essentially told Nicodemus a second birth was a necessary in order to be saved. Why, again I’m glad you asked, the word “birth” means -to be delivered of- when you were born you were delivered of your mother, being the seed of your mother and father and a sinner by nature. God said a sinner cannot change what they are on their own. *“Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? **then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.**”* Jeremiah 13:23 We cannot change what we are by nature because our nature is our teacher in right or wrong, our nature is at enmity with God. *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”* Romans 8:7

Therefore, the conclusion must be that it is impossible for a person to accomplish salvation within themselves, it must come another way. Salvation is only possible in Jesus Christ, and by the power of God Himself. This is what Jesus meant when He told Nicodemus to be “born again” or to be given an actual new birth by God in Jesus Christ. This is what God calls a “new nature”, which is a “Divine nature”, *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these **ye might be partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”* 2 Peter 1:3, 4 (Actually this entire passage could be bolded)

This divine nature comes from God by the power of the Holy Spirit and in Jesus Christ, it is not accomplished by humanistic actions including human works *“But as many as received him, to them gave **he power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* John 1:12, 13. We are born of God, *“**For whatsoever is born of God** overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”* 1 John 5:4 We are delivered to salvation by the power of the Holy Spirit, *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”* Romans 8:14 a dead spirit must be quickened and that is only possible by God’s power. We are saved in Christ Jesus, by His death, burial, resurrection, by His blood, by His holiness, by His accomplishing to fulfill all the laws and commandments of God, by His overcoming temptation. It was Jesus Christ who went to Calvary and allowed them to crucify Him in our place, suffering our pain, paying our debt, not some of our debt but all our debt. In Christ we need not human works no humanism, Jesus Christ did everything God the Father commanded of His to save His people. *“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; **but that the world through him might be saved.** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* John 3:17, 18 People are not condemned to hell because they did not work enough, but because they did not trust in Jesus Christ to save them. If you believe that you believe that salvation includes works, then how can you trust Jesus to save you. Walking in the Spirit is walking in the salvation given by the power of the Holy Spirit thru Jesus the Son of God. **You cannot be an unbeliever and be saved in Jesus Christ, only in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit can you never come into condemnation! PRAISE OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS HIS BELOVED SON FOR A SALVATION THAT WILL NEVER EXPIRE!**

#### *Something to think about!*

We have many friends in heaven whom we dearly love. We miss them. But we do not sorrow for them. We envy them! The believer, as long as he is in this world, is like an eagle I once saw while visiting a zoo. He sat on an iron perch, with a chain holding him to the earth, gazing into heaven. It appeared that he longed to soar away into the distant clouds; but the chain held him fast to the earth.

When an eagle is happy in an iron cage or chained to an iron perch, when a sheep is happy in a pack of wolves, when a fish is happy on dry land, then, and not until then, will the renewed soul be happy in this body of flesh. Death for God’s saints will be a welcome relief (Psalm 17:15). -Elder Don Fortner