

Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church

"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught for Sixty-One Years" Since October 21, 1961

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

February 05, 2023

Newsletter Number 898

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Please Join Us As We Pray For:

Sister 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, Tyler Castle, 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, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King - Son David - and family, Elder Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Roselyn Pardillo and Family and those that work with her, Hailey Beaver, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Dakota Sutton, Sister Velma Hammond, Adrienne Lavina, Brother and Sister White in Silsbee, Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan the work in Thailand, Elder Raul and the work in Romania.

Thoughts from our Pastor:

Are You Near to God?

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Hebrews 10:22

We can be assured that as Christians God is always near to us. God promised us He would never leave us, nor would He ever forsake us. "...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5. But the question is, "are we close to God", for us to be truly close to God we must walk with God and in Christ. "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:7 However, we must realize also walking in light is refusing to walk in darkness, because there is no walking near God if we are walking in darkness. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." 1 John 1:6 walking in darkness is walking outside of the scriptures. Jesus Christ always pleased God because He always walked in the Will of God never walking in his own will. "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." John 6:38 Jesus knew that the only way to please God the Father is to do His Will, no matter what. Paul wrote in Romans 15:3 "For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me." In Hebrews we learn of two things we need to draw close to God, and to walk in fellowship with Him, "...with a true heart in full assurance of faith..." These two terms "a true heart" and "in full assurance of faith..." defines what is meant by walking in the light. If we are not in the light of His word, then we are walking in darkness. The problem so many have is they do not understand what God means by walking in the light. A true heart means, as defined by Vincent's Word Study says, "the phrase means more than in sincerity. Sincerity is included, but with it all that enters into a right attitude toward God." Understanding that God is our Father, and He has rules and laws that are non-negotiable by our thoughts, beliefs, understandings, or how we were brought-up. God's word does not have to fit your way of thinking, but our way of thinking must fit into God's word. This is exactly what Jesus said as the Son of man, I came to do His will and not my own. Then the Lord's second commandment is "in full assurance of faith..." this means, - *entire confidence in God* - faith is believing God, not just believing in Him, but believing His written word without hesitation or denying seeing it because you somehow disagree with it and have made yourself

blind to it. James wrote these words, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." James 1:6 The word "wavering" means - to separate thoroughly, that is, to withdraw from, or (by implication) oppose; figuratively to discriminate – at God or His word. There are no excuses as to not believing and walking in the truth. Even if our own heart causes us to fail in our faithfulness to God's word it is not an excuse. So, while a lot of people separate themselves from the Truth of God's Word, they call themselves walking in bold fellowship with God. However, they are not walking in the light of God's word. For example, is not attending church satisfactory to God? "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." Heb 10:25 It is not obeying the scriptures if God has saved your soul and you have not been baptized and are a member of one of the Lord's church's. There is no excuse! Do you bring unity to the church, do you edify (build-up) other church members or tear them down. "For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." Romans 14:18 A Christian never talks bad of another Christian; this is division not unity. It doesn't matter what you think! Do you fear God, I mean do you Reverence God? Do you truly care if you are breaking His commandments? Are you looking at what your life is, and if it truly blesses God. Do not "just assume" you are pleasing God and walking in fellowship. Look at your life in the mirror of God's word, listen to the scriptures, and do as God preaches. "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Corinthians 3:18 Ask yourself this question, AM I PLEASEING GOD, REALLY PLEASING GOD? And if not then correct what you are doing wrong and you will have a very sweet fellowship with God the Father and Jesus His Beloved Son, as a Son. "For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?" Psalms 56:13

Christ calls men to carry a cross!

By A.W. Tozer

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matthew 16:24

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abides for ever." 1 John 2:15,17

Any appeal to the public in the name of Christ which rises no higher than an invitation to tranquility — must be recognized as mere humanism, with a few words of Jesus thrown in to make it appear Christian.

- Christ calls men to carry a cross — but some call them to have fun in His name.
- Christ calls them to forsake the world — but some assure them that if they but accept Jesus, the world is their playground.
- Christ calls them to suffer — but some call them to enjoy all the bourgeois comforts modern civilization affords.
- Christ calls them to holiness — but some call them to a cheap and tawdry happiness.

We can afford to suffer now — we will have a long eternity to enjoy ourselves. And our enjoyment will be valid and pure, for it will come in the right way and at the right time.

Scripture For Thought!

Matthew 16:14 *"And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**"*