

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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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, Matthew 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, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Diane Thomas, Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Davis, Vickie Adkins, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Christel and her daughter, James Jackson, David Henderson and Wife, Hailey Renee McManus, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Gordon, Brother Dan Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

"Joash and His Friend Jehoiada

Charles Spurgeon,

"Joash did what was right in the eyes of the LORD--*all the years of Jehoiada the priest.*" 2 Chronicles 24:2

And he who seemed so zealous a servant of Jehovah--had now become a worshiper of the foul idols, and bowed before the accursed Baals. Oh, sad, sad, sad!

There was a lack of godly principle in Joash--and it is of this, that I want to warn all.

Do not be satisfied with the practice of piety--without the principles of piety.

It is not enough to have a correct creed--you must have a renewed heart.

It is not sufficient to have an ornate ritual--you must have a holy heart and life.

If this change is not wrought in you by the Holy Spirit--you who yield so readily to godly parents, will yield just as quickly to evil companions when on your own out in the world.

Well, now, have we not known men and women, whose lives have been under the benignant influence of some kind father or mother, and they have done what was right year after year--as long as their godly parents lived? They have been diligent in going up to God's house, apparently devout in Bible-reading and prayer, willing to assist in work in the church and all sorts of service for the Lord, and leading outwardly most useful, admirable lives--all the time that these nobler influences were over them.

More than this, Joash was zealous for the externals of religion: "Joash decided to repair and restore the Temple of the LORD." Yes, and there are some whose hearts are not right towards God, who nevertheless are very zealous about the externals of divine worship. It is a much easier thing to build a temple for God--than it is to be a temple for God. Just so, it is a much more common thing for people to show zeal in repairing churches--than in reforming their own lives.

Likewise, there are many who, trained up in the ways of the Lord, are indefatigable in rendering some external service to the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ. They would give to the building of a church; they would work hard to construct it, and so forth. But, alas, you may give, and you may work, and you may attend to all the externals of religion--and yet have no part nor lot in the matter!

All this while, Joash influenced other people for good. As king, he kept back the nation from the worship of idols. As king, he threw the cloak of his patronage over those who worshiped Jehovah; and things seemed to go well for years, "all the days of Jehoiada the priest." As long as Jehoiada lived, Joash seemed to be all

that he should be!

All that Joash had done, was to give his heart to Jehoiada--not to Jehovah. It is very easy to be outwardly religious--by giving your heart to your mother or your father--or some godly person who helps you to do what is right. But God says, "My son, give Me your heart." If your religion is taken up to please any creature--it is not the religion which pleases the Creator. Your homage is due, not to anyone here below, but to Him who sits in the heavens, whose kingdom rules over all.

This yielding to godly influences may exist without any personal, vital godliness whatever! You may meet with God's people--and yet not be one of God's people. A young man may yield to his mother's advice--and yet never be really repentant on account of sin. He may listen to his father's word, and pay respect to the externals of his father's religion--but yet never have sincerely believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is so easy to have been under religious influence from our youth up, and then to go on, year after year, never having raised the question whether we are true Christians or not!

Many young people are like Joash: sinful human nature is held in check for a while--not the Spirit of God creating a new life, and infusing a new character into the soul.

Do not imagine that natural religion is spiritual religion. Do not mistake the lessons learned at your mother's knee--for the teachings of the Holy Spirit! Though you were raised under the most hallowed influences, you only need an opportunity, a temptation, a peculiar stress laid upon you--and you will go off where the old nature carries you, and you will find out for yourself, and to the horror of others--that all your early religious training had effected nothing!

Oh, if I could tell some of you what will become of you--you would be so angry with me! If I could prophesy to some good young fellow--I mean, outwardly good as Joash was at first, but without a new heart, without the grace of God in his soul--if I could prophesy to him what a monster he will become--he would spit in my face in indignation that I should dare to foretell such a thing!

Yet there is not a man or woman who is safe from the most abominable sin--until they sincerely yield themselves to Christ. There is not one who is sure that the deepest damnation of Hell will not be their portion--unless they sincerely come and commit their soul into the hands of Jesus!

Jellyfish Christianity

By J.C. Ryle

"The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin!" 1 John 1:7

One plague of our age, is the widespread dislike to sound doctrine. In the place of it, the idol of the day is a kind of jellyfish Christianity — a Christianity without bone, or muscle, or sinew — without any distinct teaching about the atonement, or the work of the Spirit, or justification, or the way of peace with God — a vague, foggy, misty Christianity, of which the only watchwords seem to be, "You must be liberal and kind. You must condemn no man's doctrinal views. You must think everybody is right — and nobody is wrong."

And this spineless kind of religion, we are told, is to give us peace of conscience! And not to be satisfied with it in a sorrowful, dying world — is a proof that we are very narrow-minded! Satisfied, indeed! Such a religion might possibly do for unfallen angels! But to tell sinful, dying men and women to be satisfied with it — is an insult to common sense and a mockery of our distress. We need something far better than this. We need the sin-atonement blood of Christ!

Church News:

Happy Birthday Sister Alice Hoskins Monday March 8th