

SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Sixty 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, 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:

How Impotent is the Local New Testament Church!

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18

I wanted to use Matt. 16:18 as my starting point, not to debate the local church verses the mythical universal church. My thought here is the importance of the local church, because so many today do not reverence the church. The word reverence here means -by analogy to be in awe of- the church as though she is metaphorically the body of Christ and one day will be the bride of Christ. Therefore, the church must be respected for the glorious and holy institution that she is, not as a simply place of pleasure. The church is important to the Christian because she is the pillar and ground of truth. *"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* 1 Timothy 3:15 If a church is not the pillar and ground of truth then it is not a church, *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."* Revelation 2:4 – 5 The church is where you not only find truth it is where you find Christian love. This love is of Jesus Christ and He instituted the church in the world to have love, share love, and a place to praise and love God. The church is the most holy place on earth, not Israel, not the Holy Lands, not any symbolic thing or place on earth, just the local New Testament Church. The church must be the immovable pillar where the absolute truth is taught, where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is taught and respected as the absolute Sovereign Beings that they are. The church is about one focus, worshipping the Triune God in spirit and truth. The local church is the seminary of truth and only truth should be taught there. This is the reason the church, when assembled is Holy ground. Every member of a local church is a part of the body, and every member is very important to the local body. *"For the body is not one member, but many. (24) For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: (28) And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."* 1 Corinthians 12:14, 24, 28 Therefore, you as a member was set in the local church to serve God, Jesus Christ, as it pleases Them. *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath*

pleased him." V. 18 What a true blessing, God saves by His grace, then God sets us in the church as He chooses, to serve the purpose He chooses. God chooses the building and body parts and calls them the body of Christ which gives us all a more special membership. Being a child of God is so special and being a member of the Lord's church is also very special, however both can be abused. God's grace can be abused by Christians sinning at will, by others not seeing your light shine. The blessing of being a church member can be abused by not attending church, this is an awful disobedience to God. There are very few true reasons for a Church member not to be in church. God said, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*" Hebrews 10:25 Another failure by many members is tithe and offering to the Lord's house. It is a fact that the Lord's churches suffers in many ways, but the two most common ways are attendance and money. It's a real blessing to see God's children following the scripture and walking in His word, but a sad thing when we see those not following the scriptures. If you are saved and you're not a church member you truly need to join and be a part of God's church. Second, if you're a church member that doesn't do as God commanded it's time to straighten that out. Every Christian is saved because God saved them for a reason, and that reason is not to disobey the word of God.

Consider a few contrasts between them:

By Arthur Pink

Law and grace are antithetical terms. Consider a few contrasts between them:

The Law manifests what is in man—sin.

Grace manifests what is in God—love and mercy.

The Law speaks of what man must do for God.

Grace tells of what Christ has done for men.

The Law demands righteousness from men.

Grace brings righteousness from God to men.

The Law brings God's justice to men.

Grace brings men to God's mercy.

The Law sentences a living man to death.

Grace brings a dead man to life.

The Law never had a missionary.

The Gospel is to be preached to every creature.

The Law makes known the will of God.

Grace reveals the heart of God.

Grace is the sinner's only hope.

Unless we are saved by grace, we can never be saved at all.

Grace is God's provision for those who are . . .

so corrupt that they cannot change their own natures;

so averse to God that they cannot turn to Him;

so blind that they cannot see Him;

so deaf that they cannot hear Him;

so dead in sin that He must open their graves and give them spiritual life, if ever they are to be saved.

Grace implies that the sinner's case is desperate, yet that God is merciful.

"You are not under law, but under grace." Romans 6:14

Church News!

Pastor Johnson will not be in the pulpit next Sunday 3 – 20 – 2022 because he will be speaking at the Northside Baptist Church in Oakdale, La at their Bible Conference.

Don't forget to pray for your Pastor and other church members everyday because we all need much prayer.

Pray much for the Christians in Ukraine, pray for the people there also. Pray for the Missionaries and Mission works there.