

# 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

March 14, 2021

Newsletter Number 813

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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.

## *Pastors Thoughts:*

### **Jesus has a place prepared for us.**

*"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."* John 14:2 - 3

As Christians our most heartfelt desire is to be with Jesus, and one day we all will. Jesus makes several promises in this passage, but the most prominent is that He has prepared a place for us. I have heard many people say many wild things about what we will do in heaven, and almost all of them are misguided. Most people dwell on this word "mansions" and think that we will all have a personal mansion which to almost all Christians is a desire because most Christians live moderate lifestyles at best. However, heaven is not about us, it is not about God making us happy for all eternity. Heaven is about our worship and service to God; our honor is to serve God. Our glory, our honor, our happiness in heaven is earned here on earth, it's called crowns and rewards. This is what we will take with us to heaven, this will be our eternal happiness. Our glory is just being in heaven, being a child of God, being one that God chose to be His before the foundation of the world. This will be our happiness in heaven. Therefore, God has not prepared a special mansion for you and your family to be eternally happy. Our housing will be a space not a house. It was the translators in the early 1600's that inserted this word mansions, but that is not specifically what the word refers too. The Greek word "monē" actually means - dwelling place - therefore the word is talking about a place for us all to dwell together. Heaven must be a massive place with a lot of different sections. We know the most Holy of anything is where God is, therefore, it is called the Holy of Holies. We also know that Jesus sits on the Father's right hand, I believe we will be placed close to Jesus, remember we are God's children. As children we will be elevated in heaven above the other created beings, even the angels, we are God's most glorious work. God took the most dirty, the most worthless, the most undeserving of His creation and made them His most glorious of all creation in Christ Jesus. We are why God sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, it is why the most Holy took on sin, it is why God allowed His son to surrender Himself to be crucified, it is why He surrendered to death. Our happiness will be our abiding place because it will be with Jesus. "and make our abode with him." V. 23 this is our eternal happiness. Were not having private mansions, or cabins on the river, or fishing in the river, or any other non-scriptural fantasy, heaven is God's Holy place and our happiness will be to serve and worship God and Jesus our Saviour. Don't worry beloved, we will be eternally happy doing just that.

### ***Zeal Without Knowledge***

By Curtis Pugh

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

Often zeal is a good thing. Zeal or enthusiasm for good things is to be commended. Being a "deadhead" on the job or as a parent or in service for the Lord makes life a burden. In the matter of our relationship with Him Christ said: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent," (Revelation 3:19). Not only do lost sinners need to repent, Christians also are guilty of sins daily. Walking with God is a matter of daily repentance.

But zeal or enthusiasm is a bad thing when it is coupled with ignorance. Two very young boys wanted to please their father. While he was at work they busied themselves in the garage with house paint, coating the family car a new color. They had zeal for a thing, but in their ignorance their enthusiasm caused them to do something harmful and costly. In religious matters zeal, coupled with ignorance, does much harm. We are well aware that there are religious zealots in this world who in their zeal beat their wives, mutilate their daughters and murder those who do not convert. The thief also may be zealous when he comes to steal and to destroy.

In Paul's day the Jews had great enthusiasm for the Old Testament Law. They had so much zeal for the Law that they missed Christ. Paul wrote of them: "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth," (Romans 10:2-4). Paul said that the righteousness which makes one acceptable to God is in Christ. He is the end of the Law for righteousness. Christ taught that the Old Testament Law-system was done away with when John the Baptist began to preach. He said, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man [individual people] presseth into it," (Luke 16:16).

And yet a great many people, some of them claiming to be following Christ, are busy trying to establish their own righteousness by their attempt at keeping the Law. (Usually they pick and choose what parts of the Old Testament Law they want to keep.) But no man ever kept the Law. It was decided by the apostles and elders long ago that converts to Christ should not have the Law imposed upon them. Peter said regarding the Gentile converts and the Law, "Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they," (Acts 15:10-11). "...By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified," (Galatians 2:16). Be zealous, but according to truth!

### ***Behold Him!***

By John Newton

*"God made Him who had no sin — to be sin for us." 2 Corinthians 5:21*

Behold the beloved Jesus, perfectly spotless and holy — yet made an example of the severest justice.

Behold Him . . .

prostrate and agonizing in the garden;

enduring the vilest insults from wicked men;

torn with whips, and nails, and thorns;

suspended, naked, wounded, and bleeding upon the cross — forsaken by God!

Sin was the cause of all His anguish. He stood in the place of sinners, and therefore was not spared.

Not any, or all, the evils which the world has known — afford such proof of the dreadful effects and detestable nature of sin, as the knowledge of Christ crucified!

### ***Church News:***

Don't forget the Bible Conference in Oakdale, La at Northside Baptist Church will be the 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> so I will not be here on the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. We will let you know what services we have if any.