

## **We are not flogged into loving Him**

By J. C. Philpot

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Col. 3:2

Where are your affections to be set?

Are they to be set on "things on the earth" . . .

those perishing toys,  
those polluting vanities,  
those carking cares,  
which must ever dampen the life of God in the soul?

The expression, "things on the earth," takes in a wide scope. It embraces not only the vain toys, the ambitious hopes, the perishing pleasures in which a gay, unthinking world is sunk and lost—but even the legitimate calls of business, the claims of wife and home, family and friends, with every social tie that binds to earth. Thus . . .

every object on which the eye can rest;  
every thought or desire that may spring up in the mind;  
every secret idol that lurks in the bosom;  
every care and anxiety that is not of grace;  
every fond anticipation of pleasure or profit that the world may hold out, or the worldly heart embrace—all, with a million pursuits in which man's fallen nature seeks employment or happiness—are "things on the earth" on which the affections are not to be set.

We may love our wives and children. We should pursue our lawful callings with diligence and industry. We must provide for our families according to the good providence of God. But we may not so set our affections on these things, that they pull us down from heaven to earth. He who is worthy of all our affections claims them all for Himself.

But how are we to do this?

Can we do this great work by ourselves? No! it is only the Lord Himself, manifesting His beauty and blessedness to our soul, and letting down the golden cord of His love into our bosom, that draws up our affections, and fixes them on Himself. In order to do this, He captivates the heart by . . .

some look of love,  
some word of His grace,  
some sweet promise, or  
some divine truth spiritually applied.

When He thus captivates the soul, and draws it up, then the affections flow unto Him as the source and fountain of all blessings.

**Today is March 24, 2024**

## **Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church**

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

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

Elder Randy Johnson, Pastor

(903) 490-3048

Pastor E-Mail: [pastor.johnson@sgmbaptist.com](mailto:pastor.johnson@sgmbaptist.com)

Pastors Blog: [sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com](http://sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com)

Church Web Site: [www.sgmbaptist.com](http://www.sgmbaptist.com)

Church Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sgmbcpastor](http://www.facebook.com/sgmbcpastor)

### **"Our Prayer List"**

*"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17*

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders.

### **"Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works"**

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8*

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

## **"A Message from Pastor Johnson"**

*"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof..." 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:2*

### ***The world hates the Light and loves darkness.***

*John 3:19-21 "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."*

In the beginning, when God created the earth there was total darkness, not even a hint of light existed. *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."* Genesis 1:1, 2 Can you imagine total darkness, can you imagine walking outside with not one single light anywhere? This is the way that the world was after God had created it, no light, not even one hint of it. But there was hope because God shined His glory upon the entire earth and there was light everywhere. *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness."* Genesis 1:3, 4 It was only after God gave His glory to the world that light was there. Then He created a sun to give the earth light in the day and the moon and stars to give a lesser light to the night, but not until the fourth day. See, God did not need the sun, moon, or stars to give light to the earth, but He did create them for the rotation of the 24-hour day. After all that God created God was pleased and even very pleased. Then one day Satan showed up, Eve ate of the "Forbidden Fruit" causing her husband to eat of it, and for the human soul death darkness ruled them as the darkness on the earth before God gave it light. The human soul was dwelling in total darkness and the human spirit was corpse dead, no light to see at all. God said that Adams sin brought death and darkness to the entire population of the world. Then God sent a Saviour, God sent a Light to this world that would allow a remnant of the world to see God, His Son, and His word. This light was in His Son and only in His Son just as it was in creation when God lite-up the whole earth only by His glory. But the human soul hated the light because their life was already ruled by the darkness and blindness created by Satan. The world's population loves darkness and hates The Light. Evil things happen in the darkness, sin rules more in darkness than the day. People love not being able to see their sin, not being able to see the evil in their heart. It is this reason people will *"neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd."*

## **Pastor Johnson, Continued**

The word "reproved" means that Jesus as the Light shows people their sins, but they love their sins more than the Light. God said, *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.* People do not want to see their sins therefore they hate the light. It reminds me of a person in a deep sleep and waking up to the sunshine and just wanting it to go away. It is only those who, God gives through the power of the Holy Spirit can see and accept the light that is given in His own Son Jesus the Christ who also gives us spiritual life. Lost people and even backslidden Christians hate the light and will avoid the word of God. They will avoid the Son of God and His word. If a Christian doesn't live a godly separated life, then the world and the devil will treat him as one of their own and they will not walk in fellowship with God who is light. Christians will hate darkness, unless they choose to return to the sewage that God rescued them from. As Christians we need to always remember, Satan will convince you that everything is fine because he impersonates the light. This is the same Satan that lied to Eve to get her to eat of the forbidden fruit that caused darkness and death. But the backslidden Christian needs to be reminded that this is the same false light that appeals to the flesh, and not to the Spirit within the believer is nothing short of anti-God. Satan is behind it all, God gave us light, He gave us life, but somehow some Christians still desire to roll in sin like a pig does the mud and fellowship with darkness and Satan rather than light and God.

## **Church Information and Happenings.**

1. **Please Remember Our Bible Conference** this year is scheduled for September 13 & 14 Friday night and Saturday. Please decide on whom you want to invite this year because we need to send invitations around June 01.

### **John 3:35, 36**

*"The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*