

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

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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, 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:

Diversity

1 Corinthians 12:4, 6, 28 "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. (6) And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. (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."

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12 is a beautiful chapter to study because The Lord talks to us about two subjects, (1.) our spiritual gifts and (2.) the body of Christ or the local church. Three times God uses the word "diversity" which means – *distinction's or differences* – which means - *a difference or contrast between similar things or people* – God did not build us as Christians or even as humans the same, He used diversity in everything He accomplished. Even in our order to be in unity we find diversity in God's spiritual gifts, in the Lord's local churches, in our gift of scriptural education, and in our place and work in the Lord's churches. We also find diversities in our human function on this earth, different races, different levels of wealth, different mindset in how to live, some are wealthy, some middle class, some are poor, and some are even very poor. Anywhere in human life, even as Christians we find diversity but one Lord, one Master, one God over all. God chooses every step of our life no matter what part of life we are whether we own a successful business, or if we spend our life as a working man, or if we live a life of never getting ahead, it is all by God's grace. Life is in the merciful and gracious hands of God, and all by His power. We are all gifted by God's grace with how we are born, how we grow-up, how we mature, and how we die. God said in His dealing with people, *"For there is no respect of persons with God."* Romans 2:11 The word's *"no respect of persons"* means - partiality, that is, favoritism – this means God used no favoritism or partiality in what gifts He gave to us. God deals with us all the same, with love, mercy, and grace, as He chooses, in life none of us are the same nor are we given the exact grace or even love, for example God loved a remnant and saves that remnant and all others will not be saved. God said, *"As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."* Romans 9:13 The question must be asked "why Did God love Jacob and hate Esau"? The fact is that God never loved Esau, he did nothing to generate God's hate toward him, because for God to hate him means that God never loved him. *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness,*

neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17 God is “Eternal” no beginning and no ending, He is Omniscient, Omnipresent, All Power, All Holy, God has no need to change in anything. “*Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*” Acts 15:18 He doesn’t need to change anything because He is Perfect in everything in Eternity. Therefore, whatever God gifts people with it is by His mercy and grace, as He chooses. Therefore, He chose to love Jacob and hate Esau, just as He had the right to love a remnant and hate the others. Paul wrote, “*Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?*” Romans 9:20, 21

Diversities of gifts is God’s choice of mercy and grace to every human, everything in life has an appointed time appointed by God’s gift of grace. “*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*” Ecclesiastes 3:1 The truth is, people cannot accept these Diversities of gifts as God’s choosing, people are the problem. We separate from each other because of our human diversities. Because of Nationality, race, wealth, biblical views, smartness, the way we live, etc. We are living in a time of pure hate, even in some churches and among some Christians. However, this is wrong because we are what grace hath made us. A lot of Christians separate themselves from other Christians because of God’s gifts of diversities, and this is a sin. No one is perfect in the scriptures, we all fail somewhere, and when Christians snub their noses at other Christians because of some disagreement they are disobeying God. When the different races fail to treat each other as Brothers and Sisters in Christ they are sinning against God. We all need to think about what God says, and look at ourselves in the mirror of the scriptures and see what reflection we see. “*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 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 3:17, 18

Altogether lovely!

By Charles H. Spurgeon

No words can ever express the gratitude we owe to Him who loved us even when we were dead in trespasses and sins.

The love of Jesus is unutterably precious, and worthy of daily praise.

No songs can ever fitly celebrate the triumphs of that salvation which He wrought single-handed on our behalf.

The work of Jesus is glorious beyond all comparison, and all the harps of angels fall short of its worthy honor.

We prize His bounty to us, but we worship HIM.

His gifts are valued, but He Himself is adored.

While we contemplate with mingled feelings of awe, admiration, and thankfulness—His atonement, His resurrection, His glory in Heaven, and His second coming—still it is Christ Himself, stupendous in His dignity as the Son of God, and superbly beautiful as the Son of man, who sheds an incomparable charm on all those wonderful achievements, wherein His might and His merit, His goodness and His grace appear so conspicuous.

For HIM let our choicest spices be reserved; and to HIM let our sweetest anthems be raised. Our choicest ointment must be poured upon His head; and for His own self alone our most costly alabaster boxes must be broken.