

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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Elder Randy Johnson, Pastor

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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, 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, Shirley 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, Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan the work in Thailand, Elder Raul and the work in Romania.

Thoughts from our Pastor:

Are You Sick?

"And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? (17) When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Mark 2:16 - 17

The Jews, like Gentiles today are always self-righteous people. No matter who you are, everyone has some self-righteousness about them. Listen to the words written by the Apostle Paul, they are very humbling words, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."* 1 Corinthians 15:10 I believe a careful study of this verse will humble even the strongest of preachers. The greatest of preachers are those who humble themselves before the Lord. It's natural for people to be competitive, to be proud, to want honor, but as Christians we deserve none of this because everything about us as Christians are purely from God's grace. Paul said *"...but the grace of God which was with me."* meaning everything he accomplished was of God's grace and power, while he labored more abundantly than they all, he was still a great servant of God in his time, but only by grace.

The Jews were always critical of Jesus, like most self-righteous religious people, they only wanted to find bad in Jesus because they did not believe He was the Messiah. Here it was because He ate with sinners, *"And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?"* I heard it asked once many years ago and I have repeated it many times since, "if Jesus did not eat with sinners, then He would have never eat with anyone." We never need to forget the pit of sin that we were all in before God saved our souls by grace. It is sinners that Jesus came to save and it is sinners He went to save them because they were lost. Humility is the greatest thing a Christian can have in their hearts.

Always remembering, I was sick and God healed me by grace and Jesus, I was dead and God resurrected my spirit and made it alive, I was ignorant and God made me knowledgeable, I was weak and God made me strong. Then we can all quote the words that Paul wrote, *"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."* Thank you, Lord!

We all must realize our sickness before we can be healed, and in salvation it is most needed. If one does not realize they are a sinner (sick) then they will continue in life without any concern about the Lord. Self-righteousness is what we are blinded with by Satan, "*I'm ok, I can figure this out and I am strong enough to do everything I want.*" But we cannot, all people outside of Jesus Christ and God's grace is going to hell. People by their self-righteous hearts will never believe that they are spiritually dead, they will never need Jesus in their hearts. These religious Jews thought they were special, they thought they had it all figured out, then they crucified our Messiah. People that believe in works for salvation are very self-righteous people, they do not need Jesus because they can do this their self. They are very proud people and are a lot like the Jews, holding their heads up high more righteous than everyone else because they are not sick, they are not sinners, because they are greater than all else in the world.

A true saved person understands grace, because grace was applied in our quickening and believing and repentance, and our salvation. Grace is our stronghold as Christians to make and keep us strong in the Lord, always dependent on our Great Physician. Self-righteousness belongs nowhere in a believer's heart, nowhere! We need to endlessly remember how weak and frail we are without grace, and without Jesus Christ, that very thought, will keep us forever humble and needing the Lord. The write in Acts said, "*For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*" Acts 17:28 Everything we are, every good thing we accomplish, every act we perform, is because of grace. It's ok to eat with sinners, it's ok to carry the gospel to them, it's ok to humble yourself, because without the grace and power of God we would all be to frail and sickly to do anything. But listen to this scripture, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*" Philippians 4:13

Thoughts for Pastors!

The best way to run the goats out of the church!

By D. J. Ward

"Feed My sheep." John 21:17

"Feed the flock of God entrusted to you." 1 Peter 5:2

The best way to purify the church and keep it pure—is to get rid of all the goats! And **the best way to run the goats out of the church**—is to feed them 'sheep food'. God's sheep will grow in grace under the preaching of grace—but goats will go hungry because they choke on 'sheep food'. They will soon leave and go somewhere else. Preach *sovereign grace!*

Acts 20:32 "*And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*"

The greatest disservice...

"Pastors can hardly do a greater disservice to people than to convince those bound for hell that they are en route to heaven." --Tom Hovestol

Life, death, and hell, and worlds unknown! By Charles Spurgeon

"The Mustard Seed" Luke 13:18-19.

I am sometimes afraid that we teachers may prepare our sermons and addresses too much, so as to make ourselves shine.

If so, we are like the man who tried to grow potatoes; he never grew any, and he wondered much, "for," said he, "I very carefully boiled them for hours."

So, it is very possible to extract all the life out of the Gospel, and put so much of yourself into it that Christ will not bless it.

Life, death, and hell, and worlds unknown, hang on the lips of the earnest teacher of the Gospel of Jesus.