

# 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:***

### **Easter is not about the Resurrection**

Acts 12:4 *"And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."*

As Christians we need to understand that there are no holidays that God has ordained as scriptural. Also, as Christians we should not share an ordinance of God with the world. Christianity and the world do not mix. The world hates Jesus, and they hate His Father, and because they hate them, they will hate Christians and who we are. Luke 6:22 *"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake."* The world does not celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ, they detest Him, they hated Him so much they crucified Him for nothing. They hate churches, they hate the bible, they hate the truth of that bible, the world would never celebrate anything praising our Great Lord. Christians are ordained to worship in "spirit" and in "truth" not in fantasy or fiction. John 4:23 - 24 *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24) God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* We must understand that there are two kinds of worshipers in the Christian world, (1) true and (2) false, therefore, just because people call themselves worshipers of God does not mean they are. True Christians and churches worship every Sunday morning also called the Christian Sabbath or the morning Jesus rose from the grave. That resurrection had nothing to do with "Easter" because the word "Easter" means "Passover" not the "Resurrection". The entire meaning of easter is not about Jesus or the resurrection and therefore it is wrong for churches to celebrate it in their service. How can a church celebrate easter and remain in "Truth"? Isn't the church supposed to be the "pillar and ground of truth"? First the word is given a false definition because it means Passover, second it is falsely defined as the Resurrection, third it is more about the easter bunny and easter eggs and little to do with Jesus or His resurrection. Oh, and "NO" it is not ok for a church to celebrate this holiday. Some may ask "what does it hurt", it hurts a churches worship in "spirit" and "truth", how can you worship in truth if you're celebrating a lie. For a church or Christians to share any event, no matter the name of it, with Jesus is unscriptural, because Jesus doesn't share His glory with a fictional Easter Bunny or a Santa Clause. Even if these two fictional personalities were not mentioned, the bible never instructs us to celebrate either

event with the world. Be careful what you do in your worship and make sure it is “scriptural”, “in Truth”, and “spiritual” and neither Easter nor Christmas meet these requirements.

**Thoughts for you:**

*To lay hold of and receive the gospel by a true and saving faith is an act of the soul that has been made a new creature, which is the workmanship of God. Whoever receives the grace that is offered in the gospel...*

*they must be quickened by the power of God,  
their eyes must be opened,  
their understandings must be illuminated,  
their ears must be unstopped,  
their hearts must be circumcised,  
their wills must be rectified,  
and the Son of God revealed to them.*

-John Bunyan

*Grace is unconditional and free. That is to say, God looks for nothing in the sinner, requires nothing of the sinner, and receives nothing from the sinner, which causes him to be gracious. Nothing in us moved God toward us; and nothing in us can move God away from us. Grace is unconditional and free. All the sin that is in us by nature could not prevent God from being gracious to us; and all the evil that is in us now cannot prevent him from continuing to be gracious. Grace is unconditional and free. Therefore, our Savior says, "I give unto them eternal life, and they shall NEVER PERISH."*

- Don Fortner

*Self-righteousness is the largest idol of the human heart — yet the idol which man loves most and God hates most. Dearly beloved, you will always be going back to this idol. You are always trying to be something in yourself, to gain God's favor by thinking little of your sin, or by looking to your repentance, tears, prayers; or by looking to your religious exercises, your frames, etc; or by looking to your graces, the Spirit's work in your heart. Beware of false Christs. Strive to be holy — but do not make a Christ of it.*

- Robert Murray McCheyne

*The Christian life is Christ. This is a truth which deeply reassures our souls, focuses our hearts, and simplifies our spiritual lives.*

*But it is a principle that we perpetually fumble. The veil removed from our eyes in conversion—gives way to clouds over our eyes in trials, and sleepiness in our steps with the spiritual disciplines. The greatest challenges we face, are Christ-clouding distractions.*

- John Newton

*A holy life does not exclude temptations. When we say a tree is firmly rooted—we do not say the wind never blows upon it.*

-John Owen

**Church News:**

Happy Birthday to Sister Martha Mollette Tuesday April 19<sup>th</sup>

News – Pastor Johnson will have to have surgery soon on his left hand and his right shoulder. Please be aware of this because there are going to be services, he will not be able to preach. But he will be in the pulpit as much as God permits. Much prayer is needed.

