

# SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

*"Where The Truths Of God's Word Have Been Taught For More Than Fifty-Eight Years" Since 1961*

1217 Dillon Texarkana, Texas 75501

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Brother Randy Johnson, Pastor

Brother Justin Bookout, Song Leader

**Pastor E-Mail:** pastor@sgmbaptist.com

**Pastors Blog:** sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com

**Churches Web Site:** www.sgmbaptist.com

**Sermon Audio:** sermonaudio.com/sgmbaptist

*"A Church Seeking To Please God In Prayer, Song, Preaching, And Worship."*

## ***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, Frankie Baldrige and daughter, 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 Poole, Danny & Nita Mollette, their cousin Kayla, The Muncy Family, 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, Donna Johnson, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Nathan Fails, Jacob Ramsey, Jerry Hughes, Gina, Brother Kelley and Sister Hinson, Patricia Hinson, Diane Thomas, Clair and Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Davis, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King, Tim Thomas and the Thomas family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Christel and her daughter, Ruthie Craft, Bertito Craft, Brother Dan Sullivan the work in Thailand, Brother Raul and the work in Romania, Bro. Sergey Mochalov and the Churches in Russia.

## ***The Pastors Message:***

### **God's Sovereignty Part 12 Subject – God's Abounding Grace**

**Text - Ephesians 1:8 "Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;"**

What is God's will for you? Last week we looked at God's will in salvation, but God's will for us does not end there. All Christians needs to remember that before the foundation of the world God knew all His will and His works. God said in Acts 15:18 "*Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*" Therefore, we must conclude everything that is God's will in our life is ordained of God before the world was ever created. Not only everything in our life, but everything and I mean everything! Ephesians 2:10 "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*" Therefore, for this study we want to stay on the subject of works and actions of Christians. Most people, even most who call themselves Christian refute God as nothing, useless, and under the subjection of the creature, **but they do not know God** nor do they understand Gods workings. Take a look back at verse 5 in Chapter 1 of Ephesians "Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," Now ask yourself, what part does God play in your salvation and what part do you play, see it is all of God and by God thru Jesus His Christ. Nothing makes me angrier than a Preacher to say, "God can't change your will" **WHERE IN GOD'S WORD IS THAT IGNORANT STATEMENT?** That is a statement from a person that has no idea who God is, they live in a fantasy world where their little god is begging them to make their choice, but this is certainly not the God of the bible. Read verse 5 and see for yourself and you must agree with me that it is an ignorant statement to say that God depends on us to change our will for Him. The Potter is waiting on the clay to decide what it wants to be. How could God predestinate anything if He did not already know the results? How could God know all His works before the foundation of the world if He had not PLANNED out in eternity past and EXACUTED that plan in time. God cannot fail nor can God lose anything He has planned. We also see that Jesus Christ will lose nothing that God the Father has given to Him. John 6:39 "*And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*"

Now let us move on to God's dealing in the believer's life, which is more of God's will for you. What is God's will for you, it is whatever God predetermined it to be before the world began. If you are a Christian, then whatever you are as a Christian is what God ordained for you personally before the world began. God ordained the crucifixion of His beloved Son Jesus the Son of man before the world began, and it was carried out exactly as He foreordained. Acts 2:23 "*Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:*" Jesus entire earthly life was ordained of God, how many times did Jesus say He was sent to do His Fathers will and that not of Himself. John 6:37 - 39 "*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*" We are like Jesus, those of us who do for the Father, do it by the Fathers will, His ordained will that He purposed for us before the foundation of the world. Whatever in the church you are, God ordained it for you before the foundation of the world. This is exactly what God is talking about in Ephesians 2:10 "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works...*" not just in salvation but as a Christian, church member, teacher, Minister, and as a Pastor. We are not self-built; God has made us what we are from top to bottom. God gave you an ability, what is your ability, and why are you not using your talent for God's glory? Do you know how many "Christians" use the churches to start their professional music careers? They never return to the church to glorify the very God that gave them that gift. The church is not a springboard it is a place to worship and serve God on earth. How about Pastors, why does God set Pastors in a church, to be the overseer and under-shepherd of the Lord's flock. God doesn't teach you and cause you to be a great speaker for Him to advance your career for larger churches and more money. God's gift to you is for the church you Pastor, not for moving on. I know there are Pastors that move on because God moves them, but a lot move on for greener pastures. Calling that move a blessing from God, but isn't that like a church member getting a promotion that takes them out of church and calls it a blessing from God. Elder Kelley Hinson once advised me as I thought of leaving Texarkana to return to home for a church, Brother Kelley said, "you better have a good reason to leave where you at now before moving on" (paraphrased). God does not shop Pastors to greener pastures, being a Pastor is like being a member of a family, the leader of the family under-Christ, you better have God's true approval before leaving. I am certainly not saying that all Pastors leave a church out-of-God's will, but before leaving you better make sure it is God's will for you. Christians, more so for Pastors, we need humility. In 1 Peter 5:5 God said "...*Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*" Christ Jesus is the greatest example of humility to our Father, but how humble was Paul, in all he did for God listen closely to his humble words in 1 Corinthians 15:10 - 11 "*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. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.*" Paul could have walked around like he was greater than all others, look at what he accomplished, but Paul knew God's graciousness in his life, and never forgot. Folks, none of us, not a one is infallible, not a one of us are self-made, not a one of us ought to think of our self as better than the other. God will use others to recognize His greatness in us, for example your church membership, you do not need to display it. You are what you are by God's grace, do not try to flaunt it. Romans 12:3 "*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*" Our greatest gift from God is LOVE, if we cannot show love thru humility then we are not showing God's grace. Our test of friendship and love is our show of God's love in us, not our judging one another. We are loving one another as Christian's not because of doctrine, but as God loves us by grace given to us in Jesus Christ and the salvation of us all. That is humility gifted by God. 1 John 2:10 "*He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*" 1 John 3:17 "*But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?"*

**Church Notice:**

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

