

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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"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, James Jackson and wife, 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 15

Subject – That we should be to the praise of his glory

Text - Ephesians 1:12 *"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ."*

This scripture right here is such a blessing to everyone who has been saved by God's grace through His Son Jesus the Christ. Verse 11 ended with these words, "...being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." We (as Christians) were predestined to be God's children and also servants of God in Jesus Christ. God said in verse 12b "...who first trusted in Christ." The word "trusted" is actually defined as "hope" which is the very first thing all believers do whether Jews or Gentiles we are all the same and all one in Christ Jesus, Whom we first trusted. All hope we have in One man and His name is Jesus Christ in Whom we have faith, hope, and trust. It is through Jesus that we gain anything of the Father, but after our trust all other things are added to each believer as God has predestinated for each individual believer. Let us look farther into this in 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."* God has created us in Christ Jesus to do what He elected ordained for our work for us is in this world. We do not choose our destiny no more than we choose our salvation; God ordained it for us before the foundation of the world. For a Christian is the clay which the Potter (God) molds us and makes us. To truly grasp the honor and glory in this is to understand just how much God not only ordained our life accomplishments, but also makes it all work according to His planned or predestinated will. The second blessing to this is how God dressed us up or tooled us up to accomplish His will. The more we understand the workings of God, the more we appreciate the workings of God in our life to accomplish His will and appreciate how we bring glory and honor to the Trinity. Romans 9:21, 23 - 24 *"Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? (23) And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, (24) Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?"* Our design as Christians was as God ordained it, whatever our Christian works are they are exactly as God

ordained them. Let us look at Jeremiah, Jeremiah 1:5 - 7 "*Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.*" Jeremiah did not choose his own destiny because God chose it before he was born. God also sanctified him (or caused his to be clean), and God also said "*I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations*" There was no choosing on Jeremiah's part, he had no say at all. The first thing God did after he was born is to cleanse him then sent him as a young man to preach for him. God even told Jeremiah, "*that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.*" This is exactly what God is talking about in Ephesians 2:10 with us.

"*That we should be to the praise of his glory*" This is why God has accomplished everything that He has willed for us, for His own glory. God does not use us for our glory, He uses us for His glory. This is where a lot of Christians fail in their walk and a lot of preachers fail in their work, they think some glory belongs to them. If Jesus did not seek glory, then what makes any Christian in their walk think they deserve glory? We are tools of God chosen to accomplish God's will to bring glory to Him, never to ourselves. If the spotlight is ever on the worker in their walk, then they need to exit that spotlight immediately so that it will shine on God. God said He will reward the believer with rewards and crowns when we are with Him in glory, rewards not ours on this earth except to earn them. The life of a Christian is like a puzzle every piece must fit perfectly to complete the puzzle. God not only made the pieces to the puzzle but He puts them in place as He hath ordained, when the "fullness of time comes" for each piece to be placed, and when completed, the puzzle perfectly brings glory to God. Folks, it all begins and ends with grace and mercy to each believer, this is exactly why Paul said "I am what I am by grace" 1Cor. 15:10 Paul also wrote in Ephesians 3:7 - 8 "*Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;*" Paul knew what grace was and exactly how underserving he was for it, he recognized God deserves all glory and honor. We would do well to follow Paul's example of humility. After we trust in Christ, then we become the praise of His glory. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 - 17 "*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.*"

Later you will understand!

By Author unknown, 1872

John 13:7 "*Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.*"

Peter could not apprehend the design of our Lord in washing the disciples' feet, and impatiently expressed his surprise, "You shall never wash my feet!" Our gracious Savior in effect replied, "Wait a little, Peter — and you will see the reason for My doing so. You do not realize now what I am doing — but later you will understand."

How often are we impatient when we cannot at once see *the design of the Lord's dealings with us*.

Sometimes, when events run contrary to our desires and expectations — we are ready, like Jacob, to say, "*All these things are against me!*" While in reality, none of them are against us — but all are, in a wonderful way, working together for our good.

Oh for more confidence in Him who, in infinite wisdom, is so ordering the circumstances of our lives as to promote our spiritual welfare here — and our eternal advantage in the world to come.

Church News:

Happy Anniversary to Pastor Randy & Sister Donna Johnson Thursday May 14th