

# 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, 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 16**

Subject – In whom ye also trusted!

Text - Ephesians 1:13a *"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation..."*

This verse in its context is referring to the end of verse 12 "...who first trusted in Christ." Until Jesus Christ is first trusted by us, we can do nothing for God. We are just lost sinners awaiting our final place in eternity in the fires of Hell. We do not recognize, or we see any benefits of God until we first trust in Jesus Christ, because lost people live in the state of darkness. We may have heard the gospel message a thousand times in church, read about salvation in the scriptures, books, and articles, but in reality you have never heard the gospel message until the Holy Spirit brings it's power to us. When God speaks of people being dead, (*"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;"* Ephesians 2:1) God is speaking of our spirit or our inner person being dead. Our spirit is the only way for us to communicate with God, and if our spirit is dead, we have no ears to hear and no eyes to see and therefore we will never hear the gospel message and trust Christ as our Saviour. Lost people can hear and see with their physical eyes and ears, they may even trust Christ with their mind, but that is not salvation, and that is not faith. God said, *"But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."* Matthew 13:16 We are blessed because God has given us spiritual eyes to see and spiritual ears to hear the gospel message and believe in Jesus Christ is by the power of the Holy Spirit. God goes on to say, *"He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."* John 12:40 While people want to argue about the "He" and who it is, that fact is that lost people cannot hear nor see that Jesus Christ is Saviour. Only those blessed of God through the working power of the Holy Spirit can see and hear the true gospel and come to Jesus Christ for salvation. Those who believe in their mind do not really believe and others deny that salvation is in Jesus Christ, the very thought is foolishness to them. This is why Preachers talk about salvation not taking, but the truth is none of them take if that salvation is of man and not of the Holy Spirit, but 100% of the salvation that is accomplished by the Holy Spirit take, because He is perfect and cannot fail. *"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of*

**God, they are the sons of God.**" Romans 8:13 - 14

To us who are saved by the power of the Holy Spirit we first trusted in Jesus Christ for the first time we spiritually saw and heard the gospel about Jesus Christ and believed on Him as our Saviour. Not by our own repentance, not with our own eyes and ears, not with our dead heart, and not with our fleshly mind. But because the Holy Spirit came into us, quickened our dead spirits, giving us true saving faith, and drew us to Christ. "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:44 If you do not believe that you are no different than the lost Jews that Jesus was speaking to as they showed Him disagreement. "Murmur not among yourselves." V. 63 Because Jesus had just explained that God is Sovereign and that God elects all who will believe, and that you cannot be saved on your own. Read very slow and carefully, "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. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:39 – 40 That is why they were murmuring at Jesus, because they could not hear what Jesus was saying and refused to believe. Blessed are you that believe.

### ***THE PRESENT SPIRITUAL CLIMATE***

By Curtis Pugh

The Bible speaks of a time like ours: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it," (Amos 8:11-12). A famine or extreme scarcity of food is a terrible thing. A famine of the Word of God as described in the above quotation is worse because of its effects. Notice that the famine mentioned above is a famine for "hearing the words of the LORD." The word of God can be purchased in stores and online for less than the cost of a meal. There are churches, organizations and individuals who will give Bibles to those who want them. The problem today in our country is not a scarcity of the Word of God. The problem today in our country is a scarcity of the preaching of the Word of God.

It is one thing for a preacher to pick a text or subject and run with it. One fellow I knew said to a preacher after hearing him preach, "That was a good sermon that you preached, but it had nothing to do with the text." It is possible to be selective in what is read and preached so that people are not offended, but neither are they helped. And in this day of success-orientation – by that is meant big numbers means success – most preachers and teachers only claim to preach the Word of God while actually they preach from it. Paul wrote that there are two aspects of the Word of God: the milk and the meat. "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able," (1 Corinthians 3:2). He wrote this to a church that was in the worst possible condition: they were living like unsaved people. By never being introduced to the "meat" of the Word they remain babies! Prepared baby food is the menu in most churches – if not downright error. One country preacher put it this way: milk is what you get from a cow: meat is the cow itself! People need to be fed the cow itself!

Instead of depending on religious professionals to feed you spiritually, in such a time as we find ourselves the child of God must feed himself the Word of God. Read your Bibles! Take pen and paper in hand and study your Bibles! Make notes of repeated words and phrases. Use a concordance and a Bible dictionary to learn the meaning of Bible words! Don't be lazy! Pray asking God to cause you to understand the Bible! Meditate upon it! Feed yourself the Word of God and grow spiritually!

### ***Church News:***

1. Please continue to pray for Sister Donn Johnson she will have surgery tomorrow 5 – 18 – 20 and sometime next week she will have a new dialysis port inserted.
2. Also keep Brother Frank & Sister Dawana Reigel in your prayers because they work in a prison where Covid 19 is present.
3. Also, a special prayer for all our workers who must work around people who are affected by Covid 19