

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

May 22, 2022

Newsletter Number 864

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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, Sharron and Husband, Little Weslynn McClelland, Sister Rebecca's 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:

We should respect others.

James 2:1-13

As Christians it is our responsibility to God to grow in God's word and by that grow in grace. Some Christians have failed to mature as godly children of God. Maturity begins with fearing God and respecting His word for what it says and not for what we think it says. We ought to continually search the scriptures daily, ask God's Holy Spirit to teach us, and obey the truth. *"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:"* Proverbs 6:23 The bible is a light to our personal understanding of the mind and thoughts of the King of kings and Lord of lords. The scriptures are not of a private interpretation, it does not say or mean what you prefer it to, it's God's word. *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."* 2 Peter 1:20 God teaches His children about "love", but not just love, His love that He has given to us. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"* Galatians 5:22 People are not born with these things, they are gifts from God after we are saved, it is our Christian responsibility to study and grow these spiritual gifts. If we look at God's gift of "election" to us, it must have all began with "love", God's love is what caused us to be part of His elected fold before the foundation of the world. It was His love that sent His Son Jesus our Christ to Calvary for a people that would be born in enmity with Him. As Christians we have a great desire to learn of God, to learn His word, His commandments, his doctrine, and obeying it all. In James chapter one God teaches us that a mature Christian's patience is tested and from that testing we can scale our biblical education. James 1:2 - 4 *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; (3) Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. (4) But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."* Once we learn and mature in patience then the Lord teaches us about respecting others in your life. Not for who they are, not for them being of like faith, not for them being your best friend, and not for them being wealthy. No, not at all, God says *"But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors."* James 2:9 As Christian's it is our maturity in the scriptures as they teach us to love and respect other people, even to the point of praying for our enemies. *"But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, (28) Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you."* Luke 6:27 – 28

Did you hear what God said, then obey what God has said. The very reason we are to love and respect other people is because God commanded it. Can you imagine how Christians must have felt about Saul of Tarsus, can you imagine the churches allowing him to teach them? We never know who God is going to save; therefore, we cannot hate anyone, not even our enemy or those that hates us. Only God knows everything, what we may see, or know, or think, may cause us not to respect someone later if God saves them. Next, money means nothing to a Christian or church, the very day we allow money to affect our thinking we are contaminated. There are a lot of very poor Christians in the world, almost entire countries that has very poor but very devout believes in them. I have been judged by church members because we were poor, we had nothing, but God saved me therefore I have everything. God said if we judge people for what they have or do not have then we are thinking evil. "*Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?*" James 2:4 Would you have welcomed John the Baptist into your church, what about Jesus? Then why not poor people, never treat another person especially a child of God in an unworthy way. I know people that are in real need, they are trying to survive in a very horrible habitat. While most Americans enjoy a hamburger for dinner they go without or eat rice and water. Their cloths are torn and tattered, they work hard and do without, they work lots of hours a day for less than we make an hour. But their as much a child of the King as we are. God put them in this habitat, and they understand and respect that, but they should never be disrespected. Let us understand that helping others and **treating everyone with respect is a commandment not an option.** "*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*" James 2:10 Failing to keep to all of God's commandments can cause us to lose rewards of other good we have done.

The only true reformer of mankind!

By J.C. Ryle

Political and social reforms labor in vain — because they ignore the fall of Adam and original sin. These are great stubborn facts, which ruin all their calculations. Without acknowledging the reality and consequences of sin — the great problems of human nature can never be solved.

How much we ought to hate sin, and to make the checking of sin the first object in our efforts to do good! How much we ought to long and strive to promote the progress of the Gospel of Christ! This, after all, is the only true reformer of mankind. Just in proportion as men are brought under the influence of the despised old Gospel — will be the increase of peace on earth and goodwill among men.

The more Christ is known and loved, and the more the Bible is read — the more will the inhabitants of the earth love one another. The more grace reigns over hearts and lives — the less hatred and violence will there be in the world. If pure and undefiled religion prevailed everywhere — then such plagues and pests and nuisances as quarreling, robbing, murder, drunkenness, immorality, swindling, gambling, idleness, lying, and cheating would be comparatively unknown. Most of the prisons and workhouses would soon be shut. Lawyers and policemen would have little to do. Taxes would be cut in half.

He is the truest friend to human happiness — who does the most to spread the knowledge of Christ and evangelize the world!

Unless our study of Scripture . . .

By Arthur Pink

"He who says he abides in Him, ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked." 1 John 2:6

Unless our study of Scripture is conforming us, both inwardly and outwardly, to the image of Christ — it profits us not!

"Leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps." 1 Peter 2:21