

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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Brother Randy Johnson, Pastor

Pastor E-Mail: pastor@sgmbaptist.com

Pastors Blog: sgmbcpastor.blogspot.com

Churches Web Site: www.sgmbaptist.com

Sermon Audio: sermonaudio.com/sgmbaptist

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, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Vickie Adkins, Shirley King - Son David – and family, Brother Robert and Sister Jennifer Keller, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Roselyn Pardillo and Family and those that work with her, Hailey Beaver, Brother Justin Bookout and family, 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:

Four characteristics needed to serve God.

Colossians 1:10 - 11 "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; (11) Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;"

Serving God is the Christians most important service in life. There is nothing more powerful or satisfying to a Christian than to serve God in truth and in spirit which is called "walking worthy". When you are a teacher or a pastor your walk is an example to those around you and those of the household of faith called the church of Jesus Christ. I was taught as a young minister to always remember, "as goes the pastor so goes the church". This means that our walk is an example to lead the faith and walk of the church membership. Sometimes teachers and preachers claim to have God's wisdom, but they lack love and kindness which are essential to being called a worthy walking Christian or leader. Four characteristics needed to serve God, these characteristics are, knowledge, conduct, service, and character. We must remember that in the Christian life, knowledge and obedience go together or else our walk is unworthy. We must always live and learn, not only are these two a must, but they must go together. As Pastors and Teachers, we are not just biblical educators but continuous students, building strength to be better servants and teachers. Always aware that others are following our walk-in life and learning from our walk. These four characteristics should be our goal in our walk and leadership. While none of us is perfectly balanced in these four characteristics, we ought to strive for that balance for the rest of our life. We all serve by God's authority and within God's power, God gives us everything we need in life both as teachers and as Christians to walk worthy. Four tools God mentions here that is needed for every Christian but especially for every teacher and pastor, these are patience, longsuffering, joyfulness, and thanksgiving. But our Christian walk always begins with love, love is the greatest of all because love is how God elected us to begin with. God used the word "patience" which means cheerful or endurance, endurance when circumstances are difficult. Because serving God is sometimes difficult, it is not easy because we are continually fighting the old fleshly nature but also sinfulness in the world around us. However, in the most stressing times we need love, and patience because troubles in life builds patience. "...*knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*" Romans 5:3b That's tribulations in your life builds character and patience if our Christian walk is correct. God went on to say in verse 4 these words, "*And patience, experience; and experience, hope:*" So the more tribulation, the more patience,

the more experience, the more hope we have in God. We must understand that it is impossible to have longsuffering, joyfulness, or thanksgiving without the endurance of patience.

Knowledge – is patiently walking everyday as though we know nothing seeking to learn more to make us better to walk worthy of the Lord.

Conduct – is behaving ourselves in the Lord or the word. Properly studying to show ourselves approved of God every day. Everything done in love, because love gives us much needed endurance.

Understanding that God is controlling everything for a reason and purpose known only to Himself.

Service – Remembering we serve the Lord God; our walk is our service. Everything we do in our life is to bring honor and glory to God. If our service and walk is not bringing glory to God then we need to fix our staggering walk.

And character – What do people see when they look at you? While you are not to walk to please people, people reflect who you are by your character. We should care what our church membership and other Christians think about us. By looking at us, they should see the characteristics of our loving Lord and God.

Beloved, a Christians is never complete as they can be, we always need to grow. We need to be loving and patient in our walk for the Lord and in dealing with other's. Remembering that we all belong to the Lord. And if it wasn't for the power and Grace of God I could never walk one step in God's glorious pleasure.

God's Order In Salvation By Elder Curtis Pugh:

The Bible is clear as to the order in which salvation is provided for the sinner. Jude 1:1 says, **“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.”** After identifying himself to his readers, Jude next addresses those to whom he wrote telling them three things about their salvation. First, they were set apart (“sanctified”) by God the Father. Second, they were kept safe (“preserved”) in Jesus Christ. Third, they were effectively “called.” These three steps may come as a surprise to those who have become accustomed to looking at salvation as something that man does.

From beginning to end, **“Salvation is of the LORD,”** (Jonah 2:9). Hebrews 10:14 tells us what the Lord Jesus accomplished by His sacrificial death: **“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”** Think about that! Those sanctified or set apart for the purpose of being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ are complete, lacking nothing in righteousness because of the work of Christ on their behalf. That is the sense of Christ's having “perfected for ever” those chosen by God for salvation. Through God-given faith Christ's perfect righteousness is imputed (assigned) to them: i.e. literally “put down on their account.” Thus the Lord Jesus said, **“It is finished”** (nothing more to be done) when speaking of His death-work, (John 19:30).

This being “sanctified” or set apart for holy use was accomplished back when God chose those whom He would save. The Bible says God **“...hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame...”** (Ephesians 1:4). The chosen ones were kept safe by being “chosen in him:” i.e. in Christ. Just as the Lord Jesus could not be killed until God's foreordained time should come so those whom God chose to salvation are kept safe (examples: see John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20). Then in God's appointed time those set apart for salvation (sanctified) are called with such a powerful call that the elect sinner cannot refuse. After all God cannot be successfully resisted by mere humans. As Paul wrote, **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure,”** (Philippians 2:13).

The Lord Himself said, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live,”** (John 5:25). The question is have you been called with a call from the Son of God? Just as dead Lazarus was called forth from his tomb with a call that brought him to life so those chosen and kept safe are called with a call that brings eternal life to them: a call from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Or are you yet in your sins? So it is that God initiates and completes the salvation of His elect.

Church News:

Happy Birthday to Pastor Randy Johnson Monday June 27th