

# SOVEREIGN GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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August 02, 2020

Newsletter Number 780

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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 Reich, 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, Jace Fails, Jim and Linda Meier, Keith Johnson, Carolyn Davis, Vickie Adkins, Shirly King and 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:***

### **Salvation is more than faith.**

*"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."* James 2:24

There are a lot of so-called Christians that believe this scripture is absolute proof that salvation includes works. Well it would, if taken alone and out of context, but in context it is saying that a man without works is a lost man. How can God tell us in the scripture that salvation is NOT OF WORKS Eph. 2:9 and then tell us that works is part of salvation? There are a lot of scriptural examples that condemn the thought that works is in anyway part of salvation. Here are just a few, Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 2:21, Romans 8:3, Romans 11:6, James 2:10-11, and there are many more. There is not one single scripture in the bible that is as clear as Eph. 2:9 that tells us that salvation is of works, not one! People that believe in works for salvation cannot be saved or God saved them, and they are really confused about the scriptures. It is impossible for the writing of the scriptures to be out of context because The Holy Spirit is the author of the scriptures. The scriptures were not written for the natural person to understand them, the scriptures are like a parable to the lost person, they cannot make heads or tails of them. *"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."* 1 Corinthians 2:13 - 14 This makes it impossible for a lost person to understand the scriptures. The Holy Spirit does not teach non-truths just as He did not inspire people to write contradiction. ***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"*** 2 Timothy 3:16 So the very thought that Paul and James believed or wrote in contradiction is very ungodly and confusing. Therefore, the conclusion of what James is saying is, if a person is saved and they have no works in their life, then they are not saved. Because faith in Jesus Christ always brings works, always. A person may not be as much a worker as the strongest in faith, but there are works of truth in their life. *"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."* John 15:2 If one pretends to believe in Christ and bears no fruit then they are not truly in

Christ. God did not save that dead sinner to be fruitless, it is our fruits that glorify Jesus Christ and our Father and if there are no works than there is not glory to God. God left nothing up to the creature to self-accomplish, or a person is not a bad Christian that has no works, God thru the Holy Spirit accomplishes our works, therefore there are no bad Christians in Christ. *“For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, are in the hand of God: no man knoweth either love or hatred by all that is before them.”* Ecclesiastes 9:1 *“and LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us.”* Isaiah 26:12 Therefore, the conclusion must be that self-works for salvation is dead – that self-works in Christ is dead – because we are what God thru the Holy Spirit hath made us. Great workers in Christ are great workers thru the Holy Spirit’s power, just as all Christian workers are. However, we must conclude that all in Christ will have works of righteousness because all in Christ must glorify God in some part of their life otherwise, they are dead branches. *“Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.”* James 2:24 Showing God’s glory thru your works. Just because someone says they are a Christian does not make them a Christian, just because a person appears to have good works does not mean they are a Christian. *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* Matthew 7:21 A sinner must have faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and if they do, they must have a show of their faith by some works to glorify God. *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, **Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”* James 2:17 - 19 Be careful in what you believe, there is only one truth and one salvation, and many lies of Satan. *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”* John 5:39 They testify of Jesus as Saviour not your works.

***Onesimus: A Picture Of Grace***

By Don Fortner

*Philemon 1:15 “For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;”*

Philemon was a truly gracious man (v. 5). He loved Christ, his church, his gospel, and his servants. He maintained a church in his house. He treated God's servants with the highest respect, kindness, and generosity. He was an especially benevolent friend to the Apostle Paul. Onesimus was a slave whom Philemon had come to trust. But this trusted steward of Philemon's household betrayed his master, stole his money, and ran away to Rome. At Rome, by one means or another, he was brought into contact with Paul in prison. There he heard the gospel of Christ and was converted. Converted or not, Onesimus still belonged to Philemon. He was a wanted man. His master had a lawful right to have him executed, but he might be gracious. So, Paul wrote this little epistle to Philemon and sent Onesimus back to his master with a plea for mercy. What a picture this is! The only way any sinner will ever be saved is to return to his Master, who has every right to slay him, pleading for mercy. As Onesimus found mercy at the hands of Philemon, so every repenting sinner finds mercy at the throne of grace when he returns to God by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Read this little epistle carefully and you will see seven lessons clearly taught in it.

1. All true believers are united to one another in sincere love (vv. 1-5, 16).
2. God always uses the appointed means of grace, gospel preaching, to save chosen sinners (v. 10). By one means or another, he causes his elect to hear the Word (Rom. 10:17).
3. The transforming power of God's sovereign grace makes the most useless sinner’s profitable servants to him (v. 11; I Cor. 1:26-30; 6:9-11).
4. The providence of God arranges all things for the salvation of his elect, overruling the most evil deeds of men, even the sins of his chosen, to bring them to Christ (v. 15; Psa. 76:10).
5. As Onesimus was accepted for Paul's sake, so God's elect are accepted for Christ's sake on the basis of his substitutionary work and intercession (vv. 17-18).
6. Saved sinners owe a debt of gratitude to those who are the instruments of their salvation (v.19; Isa.52:7).
7. The most blessed thing in the world is the experience and the exercise of free forgiveness (v. 17; Matt. 6:14-15; Eph. 4:32).