

## 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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### *Please Join Us As We Pray For:*

Sister 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, Tyler Castle, 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, Shirly 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, Dakota Sutton, 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:*

#### **What it means to be a Christian.**

*"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me."* Philippians 1:27-30

A Christian is a child of God, elected, called, and redeemed by God's Son Jesus Christ. God, who is rich in mercy and love sent Jesus His Son by natural means to surrender himself to His own creation to die on that cross. Thru this act God not only redeemed us but also adopted us to be His own children for eternity. As Christians it is our responsibility to God to understand our role in this life after salvation. The first step after salvation is to be scripturally baptized and become a member of one of the Lord's churches. Attending church, being active in church, supporting every aspect of the church, and serving a role in church if possible. Christians must understand that the church is not playground; it is a battleground. A battleground to serve God in spirit and truth, fighting to keep the church as the pillar and ground of truth. We must fight the battle of unity and love to keep our church and fellowship strong understanding that Christians are the eternal family assembled by God Himself as He chose. We are not alone, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, walking together step by step with the Holy Spirit and each other as servants of the King and soldiers prepared to battle for biblical truth. Every church member must serve God with *"with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel"*. The gospel is the "spiritual treasure" of God, and is the divine truth of God about salvation, God calls it His record of truth. *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (12) He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."* 1 John 5:11 - 12 And any deniers of this "record of truth" is guilty of calling God a liar. *"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."* 1 John 5:10 This gospel is our battle weapon as all the bible is, we cannot fail to fight the battle for truth. It is our faith in God, in the Father, in Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit, our faith in the gospel and in God's word of truth. Without strong faith we will fall, therefore the battle for us is to keep our faith strong as God's

children. Paul wrote *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”* 1 Timothy 4:1 What a sad thought, that some that God so graciously redeemed, that God sent His Beloved Son to die for will deny God’s word for lies. *“Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”* 1 Timothy 4:2 These people are doing the works of the Devil and preaching and teaching lies, ignoring the truth of God. God said, *“having their conscience seared with a hot iron”* meaning the bible no longer matters, but the lies of Satan that they are now teaching. Folks, Satan is our adversary, his doctrine is based on worldly logic and lies, and some Christians treat it as biblical truth. As children of the King, we have no reason to be afraid, don’t be alarmed by your opponents! *“And in nothing terrified by your adversaries:”* These battles only prove our salvation; God’s people have always battled for the truth and many even died for it. Paul wrote *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”* Philippians 3:10 Jesus suffered and so will we, Jesus was persecuted, and so shall we be persecuted, Jesus died, and many have and we may have to also die for truth. No true believer should deliberately avoid facing the enemy, we are children of the King of kings. No matter what, if a battle presents itself then as Christians we fight for the Lord, we are soldiers of the Lord. Ephesians 6: 10 – 20 tells us how to prepare for battle. If you are a child of God and are not in battle with the world, then either you’re not really saved or you are not serving God right. *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* John 16:33 God said *“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;”* You must believe you must suffer *“suffer for his sake”* Jesus said we will be hated because they hate Him, so *“in the behalf of Christ”* means that is in His place as though they were persecuting Him through us. Folks, its an absolute a glory to be persecuted in the place of and for the cause of Jesus Christ. If you read Acts chapter 5 you will see the example of this, after the Apostles were threatened with their lives, they continued to preach the Gospel. This is what they said in the end, *“And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.”* Acts 5:41 Walking in the Lord, trusting our Sovereign Father to protect us, never fearing, even if it leads to death. If you want to know the mind set of all those millions of believers and church members that died for the Lord, this is it, never fear and never accept Satan to win. Walking in the faith that God has given for His glory. *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* Hebrews 12:1 - 2

***Convicted and condemned, with the rope around his neck!***

By Charles Spurgeon

*“Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*

*Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.” Romans 4:7-8*

Too many think lightly of sin—and therefore think lightly of the Savior.

He who has stood before his God, convicted and condemned, with the rope around his neck—is the man...

to weep for joy when he is pardoned,

to hate the evil which has been forgiven him, and

to live to the honor of the Redeemer by whose blood he has been cleansed.

If Christ has died for me—then I cannot trifle with the sin which killed my best Friend!

Look to the cross, and hate your sin—for sin nailed your Well-Beloved to the tree!

"A bleeding Savior I have viewed—and now I hate my sin!"

I feel that, if I could live a thousand lives, I would like to live them all for Christ; and I would even then feel that they were all too little a return for His great love to me!